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Manchester Public Free Libraries . .

A History and Description, and Guide to their . . Contents and Use . .

By W. R. CREDLAND

DEPUTY CHIEF LIBRARIAN

AUTHOR OF "DAYS OFF," &c.

1899

THE

Manchester Public Free Libraries.

THE CAMPFIELD BUILDING.
The first home of the Manchester Public Libraries.

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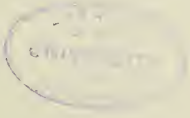

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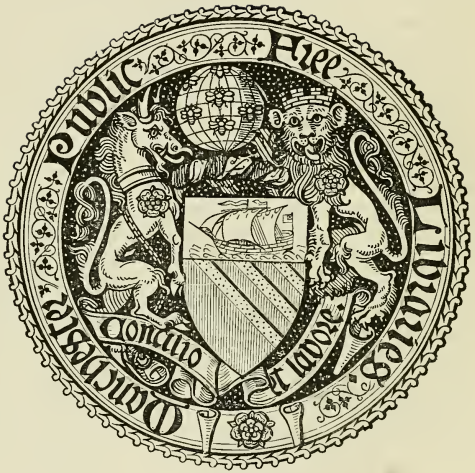

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PREFATORY NOTE.

This work is issued by authority and under the direction of the Manchester Public Free Libraries Committee, in the belief that it will be of service to many persons who, while accustomed to use the Free Libraries, are yet unacquainted with the history and full resources of those institutions; and also in the hope that many of those who have not yet availed themselves of the great advantages which the Libraries offer to all thoughtful people, will, by a perusal of its contents—should the volume fall into their hands—be induced to frequent them.

Another desire has been to provide answers, as far as possible, to the numerous enquiries with regard to the establishment and working of the Manchester Free Libraries which are constantly being received from those interested in the promotion of such institutions in the United Kingdom, or abroad. Much of the information usually asked for will therefore be found within the following pages, yet I shall ever deem it one of my most pleasing duties to answer any further questions or to attempt the resolution of any difficulties or doubts which may occur to those interested or engaged in advancing the well-being of public libraries.

CHARLES W. SUTTON,
Chief Librarian.

Committee, 1898-9.

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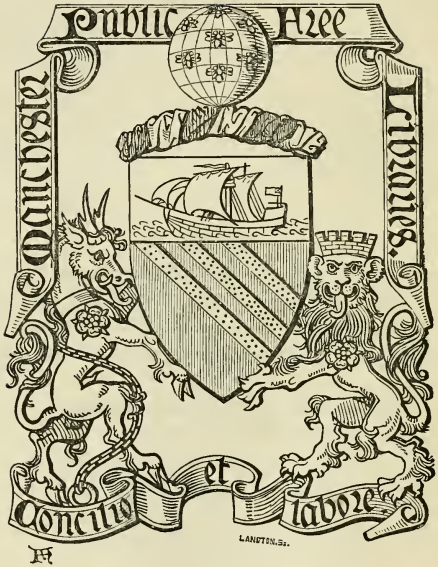
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BOOK PLATE.

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HISTORY

OF THE

FREE LIBRARY MOVEMENT

IN MANCHESTER.

FIRST EFFORTS.

ABOUT fifty years ago there began in Manchester, and finally spread throughout the country, a strong and enthusiastic agitation for educational reform. The Lancashire Public School Association, and soon afterwards the National Public School Association, were formed, with the object of making elementary education secular and free. Their members worked hard and earnestly, but, as is often the case with any important political reform, the attainment of the desired result was long delayed. At length, more than twenty years after the beginning of the movement, the main points of the Manchester scheme of education, with the addition of compulsory attendance at school at the option of the local authorities, were embodied in the Elementary Education Bill of 1870, and became the law of the land.

Simultaneously with this development of public opinion in regard to education, and springing naturally from it, there arose a desire for the establishment of institutions calculated to have a more or less direct educational influence, which should resemble the contemplated education in being free, and should help to carry to a higher point and riper perfection the instruction gained in the schools. Amongst the proposed institutions were free Museums, Art Galleries, and Libraries. Taking advantage of the public feeling, Mr. William Ewart introduced into Parliament, in 1850, a "Bill for enabling Town Councils to establish Public Libraries and Museums." The Bill was not compulsory, and allowed the local authorities to levy for the proposed purposes only a half-penny in the pound on the annual value of the rateable property in the district. Even of this sum nothing was to be spent in the purchase of books. This most cautious measure, with its singular restrictions, was passed into law in August, 1850. Almost immediately, at the suggestion of John Watts, Ph.D., the question of the establishment of a Public Library in Manchester was discussed by a number of influential men, one of the most active spirits being Mr. (afterwards Sir) John Potter, who was then Mayor.

He headed a subscription for the promotion of this design and the sum of £4,300 was secured before any appeal was made to the public. The Hall of Science, in Campfield, having been purchased for the purpose of conversion into a library, a public meeting was called therein on January 8th, 1851, with the object of informing the ratepayers on the movement and its progress, and of securing the establishment of a Public Library and Museum. At this meeting Mr. Potter, occupied the chair, and the late Dr. James

Prince Lee, Bishop of Manchester, Dr. G. H. Bowers, Dean of Manchester, Rev. John Gooch Robberds, Mr. Joseph Brotherton, M.P., Mr. (afterwards Sir) Thomas Bazley, John Watts, and other gentlemen, spoke in favour of the proposal, and a committee, with Dr. John Watts and John Leigh, M.R.C.S., as secretaries, was appointed to carry on the work.

In the course of his able and sympathetic speech Mr. Joseph Brotherton said:

> It was sometimes said that the people do not know their best interests, and are apt to misunderstand their duties; but it might be said that if they sometimes misunderstood them, they might not be acquainted with them, and therefore it was most important that they should be instructed. He thought, also, that the wealthy required a better instruction as well as the masses of the community. They required to be taught what the people think, what is really their best interest, and he was quite certain that the wealthy of this neighbourhood had no stronger interest than in endeavouring to cultivate the minds of the great masses of the people. The great mass of the people were certainly endeavouring to acquire power, and must, to a considerable extent, influence public proceedings. It was, therefore, of the greatest importance that public opinion should be enlightened, where it had so much power in making the laws; and, therefore, on every ground it was the interest of the community to encourage public libraries and museums. Of what use was it that persons should learn to read unless they have the opportunity of having books which they may read? We might complain of the working classes being misled, but when they had the opportunity of going to a well selected library, and of obtaining all the information that is necessary for their government, of course their minds would be opened, they would see their real interest, and this would tend to promote the general prosperity of the nation.

The first efforts of the Committee were directed to the adaptation of the building to the required purpose,

and to canvassing for further subscriptions. The subscriptions eventually reached the large sum of £12,823, of which about £800 was raised by a working men's committee, with Mr. W. J. Paul as secretary. Whilst these efforts were in active progress the purchase of books was entrusted to Mr. James Crossley, President of the Chetham Society, and Mr. Edward Edwards, of the British Museum, who had been selected to fill the post of chief librarian. Books to the number of 18,000 were bought, by an expenditure of £4,150, and about 3,300 volumes were presented. Efforts were also made to obtain from Government a grant of the books printed at the public expense, and presumably, therefore, for the public enlightenment; but they met with imperfect success, and though the requests have from time to time been repeated, such a grant has never, save in a very partial manner, been made.

In selecting the works intended to form the reference library two or three principal objects were kept in view. One of these was the creation of a department of Commerce, Trade, and Manufactures; and another that of forming a collection of material relative to Local History, and of books locally printed, or written by natives of the city. The result was that when the library was opened to the public the commercial collection numbered over 7,000 works, and the local one more than 500. These efforts have never been relaxed, one valuable outcome being that the library now possesses an unrivalled wealth of local literature.

In July, 1852, the Mayor brought the question of the adoption of the Libraries Act before the Town Council, and having obtained its consent, the opinion of the ratepayers was sought for by a poll. This was taken on the 20th August, when the voting showed 3,962 for and 40 against

the adoption of the Act, out of a register of 12,500 voters.

Three days before the meetings held to celebrate the opening of the library, Prince Albert sent a donation of eighteen handsome volumes, with a letter addressed to the Mayor, as follows:—

Osborne, August 25th, 1852.

My dear Sir,—As the time for the opening of the Manchester Free Library is drawing near, I am commanded by His Royal Highness the Prince Albert to repeat to you his regret at not having been able to accept your invitation to be present at this interesting ceremony. In order, however, not to let the day pass without some testimony of the sincere interest which His Royal Highness feels in your undertaking, he has caused a collection to be made of some works, which he trusts may prove of interest and of use to those who may wish to study them; and His Royal Highness desires that they may be freely accessible to persons of all classes without distinction. His Royal Highness directs me to express his gratification at seeing Manchester taking the lead, as in many other valuable improvements, in giving practical application to that recent but important act of the Legislature, which has recognised, for the first time, the supply of food for the mind as among those necessaries which in this country are so amply and beneficially supplied to the community by rates, in the different localities voluntarily imposed upon the property. His Royal Highness hopes that the example thus nobly set by Manchester, and which His Royal Highness knows that you have personally so zealously promoted, will be extensively followed throughout the country. The books will be despatched by railway at the same time as this letter.

Believe me, my dear Sir, sincerely yours,

C. B. Phipps.

THE INAUGURATION.—MORNING MEETING.

The inaugural meetings were held on September 2nd, 1852, in the Library Building, in Campfield. When Sir John Potter took the chair at the morning ceremony it was for him a proud moment. He had worked hard and

earnestly in the promotion of the Institution, it had become to him the profoundest interest of his public life, and his labour had now reached a gratifying and noble fruition. With him on the platform were Mr. Thos. Barnes then Mayor of Manchester, Sir Edward L. Bulwer Lytton, Mr. F. Ashton, Mayor of Salford, R. Monckton Milnes (afterwards Lord Houghton), John Bright, M.P., Charles Knight, the publisher, W. M. Thackeray, Peter Cunningham, editor and historian, James Crossley, Frank Stone, artist, W. H. Wills, dramatist, the Earls of Shaftesbury and Wilton, Charles Dickens, Sir James Stephen, Mr. (afterwards Sir) William Brown, of Liverpool, as well as most of the early promoters mentioned as taking part in the preliminary meeting of January, 1851.

After reading a report prepared by Mr. Edward Edwards, detailing the history of the institution up to that moment, Sir John Potter made a characteristic speech, saying among other things:

> I think we may congratulate the town of Manchester on possessing an institution which promises to be one of so much future usefulness. I am quite certain that we may most sincerely and most warmly congratulate the ladies and gentlemen who are present, and who are inhabitants of Manchester, that this institution has been deemed worthy of the support of the distinguished noblemen and gentlemen whom I have the honour to find around me on this occasion. The Committee of the Free Library have undoubtedly had a good and generous object in view in their labours. I can speak most positively to the effect that no personal objects, and no private motives have been attempted to be served in the establishment of this institution. We have been animated solely by the desire to benefit our poorer fellow-creatures. We have felt that the poorer classes of Manchester have shown themselves to be well worthy of any sacrifice which may be made by their wealthier fellow-citizens for their improvement, for their moral and intellectual advancement. Many of us have lived long in Manchester

and have witnessed the conduct of the working classes in times of difficulty and trial; and also at the present time of, I may say, universal prosperity and comfort. We have seen the working-classes when their passions have been inflamed, when they have been suffering from severe and protracted distress. We have seen the patience with which they have borne their sufferings, and the admirable manner in which the great body of that class has supported the authority of the law. We have found them on all occasions, I believe, ready to aid authority,—I speak, of course, of the great body of the working classes,—in the maintenance of order and the public peace of the town. . . . Recognising then, the good conduct of the working classes, it is the duty of those who are more favoured by fortune than they, to do everything in their power to afford additional means of education and advancement to those classes. We have seen an effort made by the working classes themselves for the establishment of such an institution. Those who will not help themselves deserve not help from others; and the greatest confidence that we can have in the future well-working of this institution is in the fact that those for whose special benefit it was founded, have shared in the expenses incurred by its establishment; and, I believe most firmly, the Public Library of Manchester will be valued the more, because every year each ratepayer will be called upon to devote his mite, though it be a very small mite indeed, for the maintenance of that institution. Some people are inclined to maintain, and I believe with considerable truth, that people do not value things that are mere gifts to them. I think it a great satisfaction to see that an effort of this kind, made, certainly, in a large and important community, should be recognised, valued, sanctioned, approved, and promoted, by those who are eminent in the ranks of our statesmen; and by those who occupy so important a position in England in reference to our literature, in reference to science, and the arts. I think we have great reason to be proud that Lord Shaftesbury, that Lord Wilton, that the Lord Bishop of Manchester, who from the first has done his utmost to promote our scheme, that our friend Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, that Mr. Charles Dickens, that Mr. Thackeray, that our friends of the Guild of Literature and Art, that the members of

Parliament for various important localities, should have thought it worth their while, by their presence to sanction and approve of the opening of this institution. As an individual, I am sure that I feel under the deepest obligations to those noble lords and gentlemen, and I am quite certain that I may take upon myself, speaking for the community of Manchester (and I think I have recently in connection with this institution been vested with something like a right to speak for the community of Manchester, when I said that I believed that the popular voice was in favour of such an institution as this, and the response to our appeal was, that not one in a hundred could be found that had a word to say against it, or that dared to say anything against it), to thank these noble lords and gentlemen for their kindness on this occasion.

In his *Free Town Libraries*, Mr. Edward Edwards says:

But the crowning honour was the presence of three masters of Literature—Charles Dickens, W. M. Thackeray, and Lord Lytton. Each of these eminent writers expressed himself characteristically. Thackeray—who could utter such brilliant and incisive sayings across the social dinner-table—was never at his ease in speechifying at a public meeting; and on this occasion the sight of 20,000 volumes seemed to appal him more than that of the few hundreds of auditors. The surrounding books appeared to excite such a crowd of thoughts in his mind that their very number and hurry impeded their outlet. Enough was heard to make one feel that what he had to say was excellent, yet he could not say it. He sat down in great emotion, and with an unfinished sentence on his lips.

He seconded the resolution moved by Dickens given in the report of his speech which follows, and this is all he said:

Sir John Potter, ladies, and gentlemen. The cause is so good, and the advocate that you have heard upon it has addressed you with an eloquence so noble and so heart-stirring, that it is useless for me to do anything more than to second him with all my heart, and to leave the case in the hands of this great jury. Of course, ladies and gentlemen, among the many sanitary and social reforms which every man interested in the public

welfare is now anxious to push forward, the great measure of books will not be neglected; and we look to this, as much as we look to air, or as we look to light or to water, for benefiting our poor. If books do soothe, and cheer, and console—if books do enlighten, and enliven, and fortify—if they do make sorrow bearable to us, or teach us to forget or to endure it,—if they do create in us harmless tears or happy laughter,—if they do bring forth in us that peace and that feeling of good-will of which Mr. Dickens spoke but now, and which anybody who reads his books must have felt has come from them, surely we will not grudge these inestimable blessings to the poorest of our friends; but will try, with all our might, to dispense their cheap but precious benefits over all. Of the educated mechanics, of course, it is not my business to speak, or even my wish to pretend to be an instructor. Those who know the educated mechanics of this vast city, or of this empire, are aware that they are in the habit of debating the greatest literary and political questions among themselves; that they have leisure to think and talent to speak much greater than that of other men who may be obliged, like myself, to appear for a moment before you; they have their poets and their philosophers; their education is very much changed from that of a hundred years ago, when, if you remember, Hogarth represented the idle mechanic as occupied with 'Moll Flanders,' and the good mechanic as having arrived at reading the history of that good apprentice who was made Lord Mayor of London. The mechanics of our days have got their Carlyles to read, their Dickens on the shelf, and their Bulwers by the side of them. It is now to the very poor, to the especially poor, that this resolution we have before us applies; and I am sure you will use your endeavours to meet the purpose for which it is intended, and to carry the contents of your volumes among the cottages, the garrets, and the cellars. I am aware, gentlemen, that in such a vast collection the sort of works which I am in the habit of writing can but occupy a very small space. I know that our novels are but what we may call the tarts for the people; whereas history is bread, and science is bread, and historical and spiritual truth are that upon which they must be fed. And as everyone knows that with every fresh book that

is written a new desire springs up for better and better reading, I feel sure that your attempt to open hitherto inaccessible means of acquiring knowledge will be attended with complete success.—I beg to second the resolution.

His nearest rival in the realm of fiction, Dickens, was, on the other hand, perfectly at his ease. He caused a roar of laughter by a pathetic account of the toils he had encountered in striving, during several years, to understand the meaning of the current phrase, 'the Manchester School.' He had run up and down imploring explanation. Some people assured him that it was 'all cant,' and others were equally confident that it was 'all cotton.' But in that room his doubts were suddenly dispelled. 'The Manchester School,' he now saw, was a library of books, as open to the poorest as to the richest. His speech is thus reported:

I have been so much in the habit, within the last fortnight, of relying upon the words of other people, that I find it quite a novel sensation to be here dependent solely upon my own. I assure you I feel at this moment in imminent danger of sliding into the language of my friend who addressed you last [Lord Lytton] and from the mere force of habit I rather miss the prompter. For this reason and many others I shall trouble you with a very short speech indeed, in proposing the resolution with which I have the honour to be entrusted. It so perfectly expresses my feelings and hopes, my convictions in association with this auspicious day, that I cannot do better than read it to you at once:—

> That as in this institution, special provision has been made for the working classes, by means of a free lending library, this meeting cherishes the earnest hope that the books thus made available will prove a source of pleasure and improvement in the cottages, the garrets, and the cellars of the poorest of our people.

Limiting what I shall say on this subject to two very brief heads, I would beg to observe firstly that I

have been made happy, since I have been sitting here by the solution of a problem which has long perplexed me. I have seen so many references made in newspapers, parliamentary debates, and elsewhere to the 'Manchester School' that I have long had a considerable anxiety to know what that phrase might mean, and what the Manchester School might be. My natural curiosity on this head has not been diminished by the very contradictory accounts I have received respecting that same School; some great authorities assuring me that it was a very good one, some that it was a very bad one; some that it was very broad and comprehensive; some that it was very narrow and limited; some that it was 'all cant,' and some that it was 'all cotton.' Now I have solved this difficulty by finding here to-day that the Manchester School is a great free school bent on carrying instruction to the poorest hearths. It is this great free school inviting the humblest workman to come in and be a student—this great free school munificently endowed by voluntary subscriptions in an incredibly short space of time—starting upon its glorious career with twenty thousand volumes of books—knowing no sect, no party, and no distinction; nothing but the public want and the public good. Henceforth this building shall represent to me the Manchester School, and I pray to heaven, moreover, that many great towns and cities, and many high authorities may go to school a little in the Manchester Seminary and profit by the noble lesson that it teaches. In the second and last place allow me to observe that like my friend Sir Edward Lytton, I exceedingly regret my inability to attend that other interesting meeting in the evening. I should have rejoiced to have seen in this place instead of myself, and to have heard in this place instead of my voice, the voice of a working man of Manchester, to tell the projectors of this spirited enterprise with what feelings he and his companions regard their great and generous recognition here. I should have rejoiced to hear from such a man, in the solid and nervous language in which I have often heard such men give utterance to the feelings of their breasts, how he knows that the books stored here for his behalf will cheer him through the struggles and toils of his life—will raise him in his self respect—will teach him

that capital and labour are not opposed, but are mutually dependent and mutually supporting—will enable him to tread down blinding prejudices, corrupt misrepresentations, and everything but the truth into the dust. I have long been in my sphere a zealous advocate for the diffusion of knowledge amongst all classes and conditions of men—because I do believe with all the strength and might with which I am capable of believing anything, that the more a man knows the more amply and with the more faithful spirit he comes back to the fountain of all knowledge, and takes to his heart the great and sacred precept 'on earth peace, goodwill towards men.' And well assured am I that that great precept, and those other things I have hinted at as pleasant to have heard here to-day from a working man, will rise higher and higher above the beating of hammers, the roar of wheels, the rattle of machinery, and the rush of water, and be more and more clearly felt through every pulsation of this great heart, the better known and used this institution is.

No speech uttered at the meeting contained words weightier or better worth remembering and pondering over than those of Lord Lytton, who said :

In rising to second the proposition 'That this meeting witnesses with great satisfaction the opening ceremony of the Manchester Free Library, and desires to express its entire confidence that this noble institution will effect great and lasting good to the community for generations to come,' which has been placed before you in such eloquent and touching terms by the Earl of Shaftesbury, I am reminded that there was once a Scottish peasant who having raised himself to a rank in the eyes of posterity beyond that of ordinary princes, desired also to raise the whole class which he ennobled in the scale of intellectual nobility, and was the first to institute libraries for the people in the rural districts of Scotland. That peasant was Robert Burns, the poet ; and when I look around this noble hall, and this large assembly, when I know that behind me are the contributions that come from the palaces of your kings ; when I see that next to me is one of our most revered dignitaries of the church ; when I see beyond me the representatives of some

of the loftiest houses of our aristocracy; and when I look upon either side, and know that you have present also representatives of the orders of literature and art; and when I look before me and see an array that I confess awes and dazzles me more than all—composed of those who are never absent where good is to be done,—I own I do wish that Burns could have foreseen what a magnificence you have given to his idea. You, Sir John Potter, whose name, when I first entered public life, as borne by your late lamented uncle, I identified with beneficence and public spirit,—you, in whom I now find that these virtues are hereditary and transmitted; and you, the princely merchants and manufacturers of Manchester, you have indeed taken up the idea of the peasant, and you have given it life from the warmth of your own generous hearts. I confess that you do appear to me to deserve the praise which was implied in the letter of His Royal Highness Prince Albert, for you have not contented yourselves with the compulsory rate which obliges you to provide for physical poverty, but you have voluntarily contributed to diffuse amongst the poor the means of intellectual wealth. I confess, however, that there are two things which I value still more than even this library itself, and the one is, the generous spirit of emulation with which the poor have co-operated with you for their own improvement; and next, the proof you have given that you sympathise with all that can elevate and instruct the classes whose industry you employ. So that this library is a new, an enduring, and a truly conservative link between your wealth and their labour, between the manufacturer and the operative, for every time that the operative shall come into this library he will feel that you have invited knowledge to be the impartial arbiter between all the duties of property and all the rights of labour. The other day I asked the enlightened minister of the United States what was the heaviest rate in America; and he told me, rather to my surprise, that the poor-rate in some of the towns was almost as heavy as it is in this country; but he said that the largest rate, and the most general, was a rate for the purpose of education; and that, said he, is a rate we never grumble at, because it is in education that we find the principle of our safety. But, gentlemen, education does not cease when we leave

school. Education, rightly considered, is the work of a life, and libraries are the schoolrooms of grown-up men. I was exceedingly touched and affected when, the other day, almost upon my entrance into your borough, I was taken by my friend and amiable host, Sir Elkanah Armitage, to see the library and museum at Peel Park, which I believe owes as much to the philanthropy of my excellent friend, Mr. Brotherton, as this library owes to Sir John Potter. I was moved and affected when I saw so many intelligent young faces bending over books with such earnest attention, and when I felt what a healthful stimulus had replaced the old English excitements of the ale house and the gin palace. I do wish that I could have been present at the meeting this evening, when I believe that the mechanics and operatives themselves will be here. I might have had much to say to them as to the direction of their studies, which I should not presume for a moment to venture to an assembly like the present ; but I hope that later, at some other occasion, I may be able to attend such a meeting, composed of those for whose benefit this library is principally intended, and that as one who for many years has had little to do but to read, I may offer them some suggestions as to the art of reading. I confess, gentlemen, that I do feel a most anxious, and I may say a solemn interest in the uses which may be made of this mighty arsenal. I call it an arsenal, for books are weapons, whether for war or for self-defence ; and perhaps the principles of chivalry are as applicable to the student now as they were to the knight of old to defend the weak, to resist the oppressor, to unite humility with courage, give to man the service, and to heaven the glory. These are the duties to which the student should pledge himself when he takes up the weapons and puts on the armour. What minds may be destined to grow up and flourish under the shade of this tree of knowledge which you have now planted, none of us can conjecture ; but you of the present generation have nobly done your duty, and may calmly leave the result to time, sure that you have placed, beside the sorrows and cares and passions of this common sensual life, the still monitors that instruct our youth, that direct our manhood, and comfort our old age. Far beyond the sphere of our daily labour you have opened the gates of that world

which, like the divine poem of our own Milton, goes back to the infancy of creation, and forward to the promise of an infinite hereafter; so that I may say to those students whom this library will call forth and create—I may say to them, almost in the very words with which that poem concludes:—

> That world is all before you, where to choose
> Your place of rest. Be Providence your guide.

Mr. R. Monckton Milnes, many of whose poems have now become familiar possessions treasured of all those whose hearts are gentle and pure and warm with human love and sympathy, seems to have possessed the eye of a seer when he said that he had been much impressed by the statement that books were more sought after and read by the artisan when he was not in full employment, and that he saw in this something more than met the eye. The actual working of the Public Libraries has proved this to be an infallible truth, and a sure gauge of the prosperity, or adverse circumstances of the industrial community, and even of the nation. An extract from his speech may not be without interest. He said:

I think it impossible to overrate the political utility of such an institution as this. Think what a book is—what each one of these volumes is. It is a portion of the eternal mind, caught in its process through the world, stamped in an instant, and preserved for eternity. Think what it is; that enormous amount of human sympathy and intelligence that is contained in these volumes; and think what it is that this sympathy should be communicated to the masses of the people. Compare the state of the man who is really well acquainted with the whole past of literature upon the subject on which he is speaking, and with which his mind is embued, with that of the solitary artisan, upon whom perhaps the light of genius has dawned in some great truth—in some noble aspiration, in some high idea—resting there, unable to accomplish itself, unable to realise its meaning, and probably ending in nothing but discontent or despair. Compare the state of that man, such as he would be without books,

with what that man might be with books, so that it is only books that can save him from the most exaggerated conclusions, from the falsest doctrines, and all those evils which may damage and even destroy the masses of mankind. It is only, remember, what lies in these books that makes all the difference between the wildest socialism that ever passed into the mind of a man in this hall, and the deductions and careful processes of the mind of the student who will sit at these tables—who will learn humility by seeing what others have taught before him; and who will gain from the sympathy of ages, intelligence and sense for himself. Therefore, I believe that this is one of the chief matters for which we shall be proud and glad of this institution. I believe, too, that even in the mere and more material form it will be of the greatest advantage to this population. In the committee of the House of Commons, on which I sat, and of which a gentleman whose name should not go unmentioned in this hall, Mr. Ewart, was chairman—and a most indefatigable and zealous chairman he was—in that committee, among the great amount of evidence brought before us I am not aware that any one sentence touched me more than the evidence given, if I remember rightly, by some person intimately connected with the manufacturing districts, that books were a good deal more sought for and read by artisans when they had short time and less work than when they were in full employment. I own I thought that I saw in this something more than met the eye. I saw that it was possible for the artisan not enjoying the full produce of his strength and his labour, to find at least some consolation for the increased difficulties and self-denial to which he was subject in communing with the minds of others through the various channels of literature, and deriving perhaps comfort and advantage for himself in seeing how other men had toiled and suffered before him, and beginning to hope for the future time by seeing how full of glorious prospects this world is for the good and the industrious man.

THE INAUGURATION.—EVENING MEETING.

The meeting held in the evening was intended to consist chiefly of the working classes, and although there

were many others present the industrial element was strongly and enthusiastically represented. Sir John Potter again occupied the chair, and many of the gentlemen who had taken part in the previous proceedings were present, together with several members of the committee of working men which had been appointed to obtain subscriptions in aid of the establishment of the Library.

The proceedings were opened by Mr. W. J. Paul, the secretary to the Working Men's Committee, reading the following report:

Report of the Working Men's Committee of the Manchester Free Library, 1851-2.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

The working Men's Committee appointed to promote a Subscription in the Warehouses, Mills, Manufactories, and Workshops of the borough and its Vicinity in aid of the Funds for Establishing the Manchester Free Library, now closing its Labours, takes this opportunity of presenting its report.

The first meeting of this Committee was held at the Town Hall of Manchester, on Tuesday evening, the 11th of February, 1851, and at that time Subscriptions had been received by the General Committee from several Factories, Workshops, &c., amounting to about £35 0s. 0d., and it was then evident that a considerable number of the working Classes felt a deep and earnest Interest in the Establishment of the proposed Institution, fully convinced of its future success, and having no doubt of the Beneficial Influence it would exercise upon men of all Classes, especially upon the Artizans.

But it was also apparent that comparatively little aid could be thus obtained unless some special organization was provided for the purpose of diffusing Information on the subject, and of Instituting an active canvas for donations. Hence the origin of the Working Man's Committee.

Since that period the Committee has held 82 Meetings at which a weekly report of the progress of

Subscriptions has been made, and printed Forms for the Entry of Subscribers names have been issued to parties who consented to receive them and promised to promote the object, which consent had been previously obtained either by the Agent of the Committee or the personal Canvas of Individual Members.

In this manner 882 Subscription Sheets have been issued to 227 different Establishments in the Borough and its vicinity, and which may be briefly classified thus :—

Machinists, Builders, Mills & Manufactories, Warehouses and Curriers, Friendly Societies orders, &c., Sunday Schools, and Mutual Improvement Societies.

And sums collected by the Committee from Private Individuals.

The various items collected from these sources are as follow :—

	£	s.	d.
From 66 Establishments of Machinists and Builders - - - - - - - - -	217	13	8
From 83 Manufactories and Mills - -	213	7	7
From 54 Warehouses and Carriers - -	150	16	5
From 14 Friendly Societies Orders, &c., &c. - - - - - - - - - - - -	132	0	6
From 10 Sunday Schools, and Mutual Improvement Societies - - - -	37	3	7
And sums collected by the Committee from private Individuals - - - -	62	16	3
	813	18	0

The aggregate amount of subscriptions thus obtained since the 11th of February, 1851, is £773 9s. 10d., in addition to a sum of £39 14s. 2d., contributed by parties who did not take canvasing sheets but hearing that the working Classes were contributing their mites and duly impressed with the stirling advantages to be derived from such an Institution very kindly put the matter before the notice of several Trade Societies, &c., from whom the Committee received the before named sum without in some instances even being sought after. In addition also to the two sums before mentioned with that of £35 os. od. previously collected Make the Total Amount subscribed by the Industrial Classes, £813 18s. od.

The exact number of Subscribers cannot be stated with precision, but may be safely estimated at 22,000.

This being a brief Summary of the proceedings of the Working Men's committee they would before drawing its history to a close express their most grateful and sincere thanks to the Chairman and the general Committee for the active and energetic Labour they have bestowed on the Institution; who not only have rendered an efficient Service by contributing their handsome donations along with other Gentlemen, but also shown how deeply they have sympathized in the elevation and refinement of the Working Classes by giving so much of their Valuable time and counsil towards the carrying out of this most desirable object, no doubt fully impressed with the assurance that increased information will be the surest guide in establishing a spirit of Unanimity amongst the Working Classes and by so doing raise the Character of the operative to his true position in society and teach him to discriminate between Right and Working good and evil. There cannot be a doubt that the promoters of this Noble Institution are duly sensible that Each Department will fully sustain its Character as an efficient Agent in the social and mental Improvement of those for whom it was designed, tending as it must do to the Elevation of our Race in spreading peace on earth and good will towards men, thus inculcating a higher Standard of Morality which will indeed benefit all mankind. The Committee in concluding this report beg to offer their grateful acknowledgement to those of their fellow Townsmen who have kindly assisted them in Canvassing their several places of Employment and using their Influence in aid of the object which the Committee hope they will now have the pleasure to enjoy, but though it highly appreciates the services thus rendered it cannot but regret the Lukewarm feeling and very great coldness with which a many of their fellow workmen have received their addresses and even refused to contribute their mite towards the consumation of this great object. The committee are fully assured that those who have felt an Interest in this cause may now avail themselves of the Facilities for Instruction which the Manchester Free Library will afford, and it will be with the satisfaction of knowing that they are about to reap the Fruit of

Labours in which they and the Committee have borne some share Thus enriching their mental capabilities with that stock of useful knowledge which all men should be in possession of. The purposes of such an Edifice as Manchester can now boast of, and the property within its walls the Committee hope will tempt men to shun those haunts of Vice, Wretchedness, and degradation, those dens of Infamy and shame which not only tend to brutalize man's nature, but blunt and harden those finer qualities, those God like feelings with which all men's minds should be endued. But they hope to see this room thronged with eager readers in search of some hidden truth, and to imprint with an indellible impression upon their minds some of the Physical Laws which govern the universe. For here may the Mechanic, Architect, and Builder (with the matter which is at their command) enrich their Intellect by the solution of some new problem or wrestle from the dark chaos of mystery some fresh and vivid Idea, which may enhance the physical qualities of their labour. Here may the poet, philosopher, and politician find invigorating food for the mind by revelling in all the sublimity of thought and Grandeur of Ideas expounded to us by those who have left behind them immortal records of admonition which no time can obliterate. Let it be remembered that there is no Earthly treasure (save health) that can out-value a mind replete with practical knowledge and information. There is no reverse of fortune can rob the labourer of that precious Gem a sound and Intelligent mind. Here then is an endearing consolation for the poor man to fall upon when all the Bright and Glowing Scenes of this world shall have faded from his view and left his body prostrated and enfeebled ; his spirit may again revive when he shall think that there is yet left in this life all that he may require to know for the well-being of his present and future existence to make him that which Divine ordination intended he should be The reflective, intellectual, and moral man. Nothing can be more conducive to the prosperity of a Nation than the refined understanding of a Moral and Intelligent people, ever bearing in remembrance that the sole end and aim of their existence here should be to leave this World better than they found it.

This, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, concludes

our brief History, and trusting that it may be accepted with the same views that it is most respectfully offered.

I now beg to present this report on behalf of The Working Men's Committee of the Manchester Free Library.

Wm. Jas. Paul.

September 2nd, 1852.

Amongst the speakers were the Bishop of Manchester, the Earl of Shaftesbury, John Bright, M.P. for Manchester, W. M. Thackeray, the Rev. Dr. Robert Vaughan, Joseph Brotherton, M.P., R. Monckton Milnes, and Dr. John Watts. John Bright made a speech not unworthy of the great tribune, and some of its more memorable thoughts here follow:

From the moment when the project of this library was first launched by our respected Chairman, I must admit that its name alone had a great charm to my mind. A library in itself, if you come to think of it, conveys a whole world to the mind. The worst of a great and good library is this: That it creates cravings in an intelligent mind which time and opportunity during life seem never to allow us wholly to satisfy. In this very room you have a collection of books which, if monarchs were great readers, which I believe they are not very often found to be, monarchs themselves might envy. You have here all that can please the imagination in the best works of fiction and in works of poesy. You have here books of science which will show you the steps by which every well-employed and fairly-paid man in Manchester at this moment is a partaker of numerous comforts which were denied to the nobles and the richest of the land, but two or three centuries ago. You have books too of history, which point out to you succinctly the stages by which nations have risen, and by which—and it is a melancholy picture—many nations have fallen. You can learn whereby statesmen and monarchs have done well for those over whom they ruled; and many, many cases, in which there have been calamities to the countries over which they unhappily had sway. You have another class of books; and if I were permitted to ask your attention to one class especially, it would be to that class

which gives you, not so much directly the history of nations, as the history of those great and good men,—for none are truly great who are not good—whose lives illustrate the history of the various nations of the world. To young men especially, I would recommend the study of works of biography. Unfortunately it is the class of reading which is probably accomplished the least ably and satisfactorily ; but still there are in this library scores, and probably hundreds of admirable works of biography, which you may read with the greatest benefit ; and I may say for myself, that there is no description of reading from which I rise, as I can myself discover, more improved by the reading I have been engaged in, than when I rise from the study of the biography of great and good men. But this library is a free library. There is in the very term something which is catching to many people ; but I love it because here it shows, that there is not only a great harmony among the various classes of this community, but that they who have subscribed the money for establishing this institution have the most undoubted faith that they can invite with propriety all classes, even the humblest of their fellow townsmen, to partake of the rich, the inexhaustible treat which is here provided for them ; knowing that the property now on their shelves will, in all probability, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, be as much valued and taken care of in the cottage of the workman as in the mansion of the employer. There are two aspects with which I have been much impressed to-day in considering the operation and results of this library. First of all, with regard to its influence upon family comfort and happiness—my experience has convinced me that one main cause of the unhappiness which parents in all classes, and perhaps most among the humblest classes, suffer from the ill-doings or evil courses of their children, as they grow up—that one main cause of this is the absence of any pursuit for the mind, for the interest, and for the faculties of their children. I believe that if any working man could prevail upon his son, as he grew up, to devote his faculties in his leisure hours to any innocent and honourable pursuit—to the study of any science, to the reading of any particular branch of literature—if his mind could become so deeply interested that he was never satisfied with what he had learned, but always wanted to learn something more upon that

particular question—there is scarcely anything, there is nothing but strong religious convictions—that is so likely to prevent such a youth from falling into evil courses, and become a source of degradation to himself and of unhappiness to his parents and friends. The other aspect is that which has already been briefly touched upon ; and it refers rather to the political and public results of institutions such as this. I am not now here, and should not for a moment think of doing such a thing, to introduce anything in the shape of a political question that could raise controversy ; but the fact need not be concealed that during the last twenty years there has been growing a power in this country that every day speaks in a more and more audible voice to the Government ; and whoever be in office, we find almost an equal deference to the plain and unmistakeable expression of the public will. Now, this is the aspect which appears to me almost the most important under which we can view this Free Library. Nothing can prevent political power being more and more spread among the people ; but it is of great consequence that in every man here, however humble his position, or any other man out of this place, as well as the richest and the highest,—that wherever political power is deposited, there should be wisdom and virtue so to exercise it that this great country may remain not only great, but may become every year, and every generation, greater in all those things which go to ennoble a State, and to spread permanent happiness among a people Now, I regard this as a great day for Manchester. I think that we shall not hear hereafter of those dread suspicions in London, that there is some 'mine' in Manchester—I do not mean a gold mine, but a mine that is going to explode and turn the country into anarchy. Some twenty or thirty years ago, it was the custom to ask at Court, if anybody came from the North of England, 'whether everything was quiet at Manchester.' Why everything is quiet in Manchester except the shuttles and the spindles, and the forges, and the minds of the people. There is no rest here for them. Allusion was made this morning to the teaching of this new 'Manchester School.' Well, let us teach. We have thought some things, which almost all sensible men have agreed to be right and worth learning. Let us now, when all

classes of this community have clubbed together their givings into one common fund to raise this institution let us now, if it be possible, fix for ourselves higher aims and attain nobler results than heretofore. I am satisfied that there are many men in this room who will live to bless the day, for themselves and their families, when this institution was opened. And those who come after us will look back with infinite and grateful satisfaction to the munificence, the intelligence, and the harmony, too, which prevailed among this community in the year 1852, when this institution was established.

In his *Yesterdays with Authors*, Mr. James T. Fields, the American publisher, has preserved some entertaining reminiscences of Thackeray's visit to Manchester on this occasion. That the great novelist was deeply impressed with the importance of the ceremony he was asked to participate in is as evident from these jottings as it is pleasing. He induced Mr. Fields to accompany him, and all the way from London he was, says Mr. Fields:

Discoursing of certain effects he intended to produce on the Manchester dons by his eloquent appeals to their pockets. This passage was to have great influence with the rich merchants, this with the clergy, and so on. He said that although Dickens and Bulwer and Sir James Stephen, all eloquent speakers, were to precede him, he intended to beat each of them on this special occasion. He insisted that I should be seated directly in front of him, so that I should have the full force of his magic eloquence. . . . The three speeches which came before Thackeray was called upon were admirably suited to the occasion and most eloquently spoken. Sir John Potter, who presided, then rose, and, after some complimentary allusions to the author of *Vanity Fair*, introduced him to the crowd, who welcomed him with ringing plaudits. As he rose he gave me a half-wink from under his spectacles, as if to say, 'Now for it; the others have done very well, but I will show 'em a grace beyond the reach of their art.' He began in a clear and charming manner, and was

absolutely perfect for three minutes. In the middle of a most earnest and elaborate sentence he suddenly stopped, gave a look of comic despair at the ceiling crammed both hands into his trousers pockets, and deliberately sat down. Everybody seemed to understand that it was one of Thackeray's unfinished speeches, and there were no signs of surprise or discontent among his audience. He continued to sit on the platform in a perfectly composed manner; and when the meeting was over he said to me without a sign of discomfiture, 'My boy, you have my profoundest sympathy; this day you have accidentally missed hearing one of the finest speeches ever composed for delivery by a great British orator.' And I never heard him mention the subject again.

At the evening meeting, inspired doubtless by the presence of a representative body of that "great dumb mass" of the people which always had for Thackeray a peculiar fascination he asked permission to speak. The words he then said to the artisans of Manchester were intensely Thackerayean, and therefore worthy of preservation.

Ladies and gentlemen,—I asked leave to address you, not because I know how to speak, but because I think I have something to say which arises out of the speeches we have heard just now delivered, in a very different strain, and in an eloquence much nobler and loftier than any that I can aspire to. You perhaps know that my calling in life is that of a maker of novels, a poor fabulist, whose good, so far as he can do it, is to represent the truth as ably as he can, and to find at the end of his work a moral for his fable. If I had to write a novel now, gentlemen, or to make a fable out of what is the reality, I would recur to books which, of course, I am in the habit of reading, as I am obliged to read them; I would refer to some novels which a great number of you, I dare say, have read, and which I hope will never be upon any shelf of this library—I would refer to a very celebrated French novel, which some of you have seen, and a very celebrated English novel, which I know has been sold by tens of thousands throughout all the

towns of the world. The novels bear the same title; one is called *Les Mystères de Londres* or *The Mysteries of London*; that is the Parisian title; and the title is the same, I believe, of the English one. In the *Mystères de Londres* I found a comic story which I think has rather a serious moral connected with it. The famous French writer, who passed, I have no doubt, a fortnight in our metropolis, and who described our manners to a 'T' afterwards, supposes himself at the Italian opera in London; and he describes as seated in the omnibus box, my lord the Archbishop of Canterbury witnessing the ballet and delighting in the gyrations of the dancers; while all his ecclesiastical business was performed by a curate with £200 a year. I pledge myself to the exactness of the quotation, if anyone will refer to the venerable work in question. With regard to the *Mysteries of London*, I have only twice in my life engaged in a perusal of a part of that astonishing romance. On the first occasion, going through Brighton, and passing by the Brighton Station, I purchased sixpennyworth of this profusely illustrated document; and I found that all through the sixpennyworth the august, religious, and gracious King his late Majesty George IV., whom I mention, I need not say, in terms of the deepest respect and grief—his late Majesty George IV. was engaged, all through the sixpennyworth of numbers, in contriving the most atrocious schemes against the welfare of the female citizens of the middle and lower classes. I lost sight of that book for two years; and again going upon the Brighton Railway—I indulged in sixpennyworth of the forbidden joy; and after two years, I give you my honour, I found his late lamented Majesty George IV. still going on with the same atrocious games which had frightened me on the former occasion. And not only was the prince so engaged, but every nobleman of his court was similarly occupied in destroying the peace of mind of inferior parties around him; and every knight was emulating every nobleman; and, in fact, the whole upper world was supposed to be in an immense and corrupt conspiracy against the lower world, of which you and I form a part. The moral of the story, gentlemen, and of my fable, comes now—and has been spoken to you, I think, in the noblest and most generous language by the revered

prelate and by the beloved nobleman who have just addressed you. Do you believe that these men are occupied in examining dancers from opera boxes, or in contriving ruin for ladies' maids? Do you not believe that these men are honest as yourselves, generous as yourselves, friendly as yourselves, eager to help you, and eager to grasp the hand which I hope you are eager to tender to them? I have passed many a year of my time as a liberal writer; I am not going to recall the sentiments which have been uttered by me in former days, not all of them; but, thank God, I have lost a great deal of the ill-feelings which I felt in former days; thank God, that with a greater experience I have a greater charity; and it is from this only—from my feeling that our cause, that your cause, my cause, and their cause, are in common, that I have dared to address you to-night.

INAUGURAL EPIC.

It should also not be permitted to pass unrecorded that a theme so rich in picturesque and impressive suggestiveness as the dedication to the public, for its free and unrestricted use for ever, of an ample and worthy gathering of whatever was then the best in the world's literature, gave birth to not a little lyrical rhapsody. The spark of poesy it generated in the mind of Mr. George Hatton wrought in him to such fine issues that he commemorated the inauguration in heroic verse extending to forty-eight pages of a 16mo pamphlet. It is thus entitled, *The Inauguration of the Manchester Free Library, September 2nd, 1852. A Poem, by George Hatton*, and the imprint reads "Manchester: The Author, 6 and 7, Greenwood Street, Corporation Street, 1853." This epic is dedicated "to Sir John Potter, Knight, the originator and munificent supporter of the Manchester Free Library," and the lyrist speaks of it as a "humble tribute," prompted by "a sincere admiration of the benevolent feelings which suggested, and the liberality and public spirit which have so nobly

carried out the design of the first really popular Free Library in England." The poem has not placed its author on the giddiest height of Parnassus, yet it contains many lines distinctly superior to commonplace, and a selection from them may fittingly be quoted here:

Hear, O ye People! and rejoice for lo,
A deed is done which far surpasseth show;
This day are you recipients of great good,
If well received and rightly understood.
This day is dedicate to you and yours
This princely palace while all time endures.
This LIBRARY is yours! for ever! free!
Oh, matchless boon! Oh generosity!
This Library is yours! these countless tomes
Shall carry comfort to your hearts and homes;
This goodly temple, where the heaven-born mind
Shall grow in grace, and fit nutrition find,
Until matured and to perfection brought,
It yields in turn the nourishment it sought.
This school is yours! and here at leisure hours
The untutored soul may learn to know its powers;
The unlettered handicraftsman in new phase
Shall see the world, and seeing, live to praise.
No longer grovelling on the earth, a pest
To all society—himself unblest,
And by imaginary wrongs opprest,
He shall discover, and thereat rejoice
That he was formed for virtue, not for vice.
Emerging from the depths of ignorance,
His longing soul shall cry "Advance—advance!"
This refuge for the weary and forlorn,
No matter whether high or lowly born,
Is yours! for ever yours! Oh, blest retreat!
Here for a season you may haply cheat
Life of its sorrows. Oh! then hither come,
And freely these parterres of pleasure roam.
Know, it is free to all who choose to share
The sumptuous banquet now provided there.

This mansion's yours! with all that it contains,
Whilst e'er a man of Manchester remains.
Oh! glorious trophy for my native town!
Dear Manchester, how great is thy renown!

His rapture anent books is not without force or dignity :

Books are the living pictures of the dead,
Fond mates, to which all virtuous souls are wed.
They are a river deepening as it flows,
Brimful of peace, not impure floods of woes;
A fount of pleasure, which, when gushing clear,
Nothing on earth refresheth with like cheer.
What an assemblage of these gems I see!
They're yours! they're mine! to all the world they're free
What an abundant harvest may we reap!
The fruits of those who with our fathers sleep,—
The accumulative wisdom of all time,
Is garnered here, from many a soul sublime.
The breathings of how many a heart sincere,
Now dead and gone, are safely treasured here!
The grave's inhabitants, snatched from the spoiler, Death,
Again reanimate with living breath,
Do cry aloud, inviting you to come
And share the blessings of this peaceful home.
Potent for good they spread their mystic thrall,
O salutary power! come one and all,
Let us obey this spiritual call.

THE OPENING AND ITS RESULTS.

Four days later, on September 6th, 1852, the Free Library, thus so happily and warmly given "God Speed," was opened, both reference and lending departments being thronged with readers, and the promoters were gratified by the striking success which attended their efforts. During the first year of working there were issued to readers in the reference department 61,080 volumes, and from the lending department 77,232 volumes, making a total within twelve months of 138,312. The reference

library when opened to the public, contained 16,013 volumes, which were increased by the end of the year to 18,104. The lending branch possessed at the same time 5,305, and these were increased to 7,195 in the twelve months.

Therefore it may be reckoned that the 25,000 volumes provided were issued five times over. This does not, perhaps, seem a large turnover as compared with the population. The census of 1851 gave the total number of inhabitants of the city as 308,382. Making every allowance for women, children, and adults unable to read, a vast number, probably between 50,000 and 60,000 persons, would still remain, who might naturally have been expected to avail themselves of the privileges provided for them. Had they done so to the fullest extent, the figures would have been greatly increased, yet under the circumstances the result was not unsatisfactory, for a new institution requires time in which to make itself known to and appreciated by the public, and the public of that day was not a generally educated one. In fact, the same census tables show that out of the 69,500 children between the ages of 3 and 14 then living in Manchester, 30,100 were neither at school nor in employment; and of the rest, 32,400 were stated to be at school and 7,000 at work. Less than one-half of the rising generation of 1851 was therefore receiving the instruction necessary to fit it for the battle of life, and of course the proportion for the previous generation would be smaller still. The use of the Free Libraries has in later years increased out of all comparison with the mere growth of the population, and this increase is largely accounted for by the strenuous educational work which has been carried on in our midst since the passing of the Elementary Education Act of 1870. Since that time the number of children ap-

parently not receiving education has steadily decreased, and has indeed almost reached the vanishing point, whilst the report of the Committee of Council on Education for 1897-8 shows that in 1897 there was in the elementary schools of the city alone, the number of 95,534 children on the Registers, and if there be added to these, as may reasonably be done, the 20,340 in attendance at evening schools, the very satisfactory total of 115, 874 is obtained. The influence and power of these enhanced educational efforts might rightly be expected to manifest themselves in an increased use of institutions having for their object the enlargement and extension of adult education, and it is conclusively shown by the figures recording the working of the Manchester Free Libraries that this expectation is correct and is being amply and gratifyingly realised.

The good work thus well begun went sturdily onward gaining for itself, under the management of Sir John Potter, who had been elected the first Chairman of the Committee, much popularity and esteem. This sympathetic feeling was emphasised by frequent presents to the institution, amongst them being £75 in money from the Manchester Shakspeare Society, the proceeds of an amateur performance at the Theatre Royal ; about 620 volumes from Mr. Robert Barnes, Mayor of Manchester in 1852-3 ; 325 volumes given by Mr. Alexander Henry, and 140 by Mr. Nicholas Heald ; a set of the Specifications of Patents from the Commissioners of Patents ; many valuable works from America, notably from the Smithsonian Institution, and the publications of several societies presented by their members.

Concerning the use of the Library, Mr. Edwards, in his first report, thus speaks :

From the first, the library of reference has been

extensively used by persons of all classes in society. Many clergymen and ministers of various denominations frequently visit it for purposes of research. Commercial men of all grades occasionally come, either in search of information on some pending question of politics or trade, or points connected with patents of inventions and other like subjects. Young men of good education and acquirements come habitually; some to read history, some to read books on commerce, others to study theology or philosophy. There are readers who come almost daily, both morning and evening for many months. But the majority of evening readers—and it is in the evening that the library is most largely frequented—have always belonged to what are popularly termed 'the working classes.' Many, of course, read merely for amusement; but not a few come with a lively and with an obvious purpose of self-improvement.

LECTURES.

By way of still further popularising the new institution, free lectures were delivered in the Library in the winter of 1852. The Rev. Dr. Robert Vaughan, Principal of the Lancashire Independent College, lectured on the "Use and Study of History"; Mr. A. J. Scott, Principal of Owens College, dealt with the "Literature of Society and Fiction"; and Professor Crace Calvert spoke on "Coal and its Applications." "These lectures," we are told, "were attended by crowded audiences, were listened to with evident delight, and were productive of a noticeable effect on the demand for books in the Library of Reference." Yet the experiment was not repeated till 1888, when a course of free lectures was arranged and delivered as follows:—

1888. January 18th—Hulme Branch—Mr. Charles Rowley, on "General Reading for Busy Men."

January 25th—Cheetham Branch—Rev. P. P. Forsyth, on "Popular Religious Literature."

February 15th—Deansgate Branch—Mr. W. E. A. Axon, on "Books, Ancient and Modern."

February 22nd—Chorlton Branch—Professor A. S. Wilkins, on "Modern Fiction."

March 7th—Rochdale Road Branch—Mr. Geo. Milner, on "Ballad Literature."

March 21st—Ancoats Branch—Mr. Geo. Harwood, M.A., on "Books as Friends."

These lectures so greatly attracted the public that a further course was provided in the winter of the same year and of the year 1889. Here is the list :—

1888. November 6th—Ancoats Branch—Mr. W. E. A. Axon, on "The Story of Manchester."

December 4th—Chorlton Branch—Mr. J. A. Newbold, on "Reasoning."

1889. January 15th—Hulme Branch—Professor W. Boyd Dawkins, on "The Ancient History of the Earth."

February 5th—Cheetham Branch—Mr. Eli Sowerbutts, on "The Making of Geography."

March 4th—Deansgate Branch—Professor A. S. Wilkins, on "George Eliot."

April 9th—Rochdale Road Branch—Mr. Charles Rowley, on "General Reading for Busy Men."

In 1890, three lectures were delivered in the Reference Library by way of experiment. On January 13th, Mr. Alfred Darbyshire lectured on "Secular Architecture"; on February 10th, Mr. Percy S. Worthington, B.A., discoursed on "Ecclesiastical Architecture," and on March 10th, Mr. John Cassidy spoke on "Sculpture," giving during his discourse practical illustrations in the art of modelling in clay. A list of the more important works contained in the library relative to the subjects expounded was printed on the syllabus of each of the lectures. The room was crowded with attentive and appreciative

audiences, and the importance and utility of thus bringing some of the treasures of the library into prominent notice was conspicuously demonstrated by their subsequent use.

In further continuance of this useful course of activity a series of lectures was provided for the winter of the years 1891-2 as follows :—

1891. November 24th.—Newton Heath Branch, Public Hall.—Mr. Geo. Milner on "English Poetry as represented by the collection in the Library."

December 15.—Newton Heath Branch, Public Hall.—Mr. W. E. A. Axon on "Books and Reading."

1892. January 26th.—Newton Heath Branch, Public Hall.—Mr. T. C. Abbott on "James Russell Lowell."

February 15th.—Newton Heath Branch, Public Hall.—Mr. Harry Rawson on "Technical Education, with notes of a visit to Technical Schools in Germany, France, and Switzerland," and with Lantern illustrations.

March 22nd.—Manchester Town Hall, Mr. J. Ernest Phythian, "The Cathedral of St. Mark, Venice," with lantern illustrations.

In connection with this lecture an exhibition of Ongania's *Basilica of St. Mark* was held. This work consists of fourteen volumes 4to., and two folio, forming an exhaustive and artistic treatise, describing and illustrating with text and 741 plates, of which 134 are coloured, one of the most interesting and famous buildings in the world.

During the usual season of 1892-3, the lecture programme was carried on, lectures being delivered in the Newton Heath, Longsight, and Rusholme Public Halls, and the Hulme Town Hall, by Mr. Charles Rowley, on "The History of Pictorial Art;" Mr. J. E. Phythian, on the

"Study of Sculpture in Egypt, Greece, and Italy;" Mr. W. E. A. Axon, on "The Story of Manchester;" and Mr. W. W. H. Gee, on "The Electric Light." This branch of Library work was then discontinued until 1899, when an arrangement was made with Mr. J. E. Phythian to deliver from January 27th, to March 3rd, a course of six lectures on "English History in Modern Fiction," in the Public Hall attached to the Longsight Branch. The lectures were illustrated by lantern views, were largely attended by the public, and considerably increased the use of the higher class fiction, and the works on English history possessed by the Library.

THE CAMPFIELD BUILDING.

A few years after the opening of the Library in the building in Campfield, its inadequacy to meet the public's requirements became apparent. The structure had originally been designated "The Hall of Science," and was opened in May, 1840, as a place of meeting for the followers of Robert Owen, whose name will live in history as that of the originator of a form of socialism. His *Life*, written by himself, is one of the curiosities of biography. The Hall fronted Byrom Street, (named after the Manchester Jacobite Poet) and was on three sides detached. Its general style of architecture was Italian. On a large stone slab let into the parapet on the front of the building was the inscription

ESTABLISHED BY
PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION
IN THE THIRD YEAR
OF THE MAYORALTY OF
JOHN POTTER, ESQ.,
MDCCCLI.

The length of the Hall was 109 ft., and its width 54 ft. There was an entrance hall 16 ft. by 20 ft., and fronting it

on the ground floor was the lending library, occupying a spacious room 83 ft. long by 51 ft. wide and 16 ft. high. Above this, reached by four flights of steps, was the Reference Library. A contemporary describer says of this room :—

> It is of the same length and breadth as the library for circulation, but is much more lofty and elegant in its appearance, the ornamented ceiling being 27 ft. from the floor. The windows, six on each side, are 15 ft. 6 in. in height, and 5 ft. 3 in. in breadth. The entire walls are covered with shelves. This noble room is unencumbered by columns. It is furnished with six large oak tables, covered with black leather, in two rows, surrounded by sixty neat chairs. No one can enter this room without being sensibly struck with its noble and imposing appearance.
>
> Over the Reference Library there has been formed a room which will be available for the purposes of a museum, for the reception of models exhibiting improvements in the machinery chiefly connected with the trade of this district, and no doubt other objects of interest.

The arrangements for lighting and ventilation, which were "to ensure the valuable bindings from the serious decay which is witnessed in so many of our public libraries," are described by this enthusiast in elaborate detail, but as they were not very effectual his praises may be omitted. Ten years after the erection of the building the Owenites having become greatly reduced in number were glad enough to dispose of their property, and it was purchased by Alderman John Potter, on behalf of the subscribers to the Public Library Fund, for the sum of £1,200. The purchase of a chief rent on the property of £91. 6s. per annum, owned by Sir Oswald Mosley, who returned one-half of the purchase money, and legal and other expenses connected with the transfer brought the cost to £2,147. Thus it happened, perhaps not inappropriately, that a structure which had at first been used for

the purpose of propagating a form of communism for which the people were by no means ripe, came to be devoted to a more practical and promising method of social reform.

THE BEGINNING OF THE BRANCHES.

To provide for the embarrassing increase in the use of the library, especially in the lending department, the Committee submitted to the Council a proposal for the establishment of three branch libraries. Their scheme, drawn up by Councillor Harry Rawson and explained by him and Sir John Potter to the Council on May 13th, 1857, is outlined in the following "report and recommendations."

> Your Committee have, for some time past, been conscious of the inadequacy of the present Library to meet the requirements of the public; partly from the insufficient supply of books, and in great measure from the circumstance that the locality of the Library places it at a very inconvenient distance from the large numbers of those for whom especially its advantages were benevolently designed.
>
> The Council will be aware that at the period of the transference of the Free Library to the care and custody of the Corporation, the Public Libraries and Museums Act, 13 and 14 Vic., cap. 65 required 'that the whole amount of rate levied for the purposes of this Act do not in any one year amount to more than one halfpenny in the pound on the annual value of the property in the borough rateable to the borough rate.' As nearly the whole of the amount so produced is required for the efficient working of the present Library, it becomes necessary that your Committee should obtain the sanction of the Council to avail themselves of the larger powers conferred by a subsequent and amended Act the 18th and 19th Vic., cap. 70, which empowers the levying of a rate 'not exceeding the sum of one penny in the pound,' and which on the present assessment of the borough, will produce an annual sum of about £4,000.

Before proceeding to specify the manner in which the Committee propose to carry out the increased powers (should the Council see fit to accord them) they beg to state that they do not intend to alter any of the conditions under which the present Library is placed. It will be observed that it is Lending Libraries which they recommend to be formed, as they are convinced that it would be inexpedient to establish others for the purpose of reference; not only from their greater relative cost, but from a belief that one well-stocked Reference Library will be more serviceable than several which were necessarily less complete and inferior. Neither can any large proportion of the books comprising the existing lending library be removed, though undoubtedly the pressure upon its circulation will be rendered less severe when the new branches come into operation. As the central lending library, too, it is desirable that the number of its volumes should be larger than may be required for the branch establishments.

Your Committee, therefore, submit the following recommendations and estimates:—1. That three Branch Libraries shall be established. 2. That to each Library a News and Reading Room be attached. 3. That the Libraries be placed in the following localities:—

(*a*) One in Ancoats, as near as practicable to New Cross, thus supplying the dense masses of population in Ancoats, St. George's and Oldham Roads, and the districts between and on each side of these great thoroughfares.

(*b*) One in Hulme, situated near the site of the old workhouse, to supply those parts of the township lying beyond Stretford New Road, Greenheys, Moss Side, and Chorlton.

(*c*) One in Ardwick, near Ardwick Green, to supply that township, the districts of London Road, Garratt, and the extreme end of Ancoats.

Your Committee are unanimous in thinking that it would be unreasonable to expect from the voluntary benevolence of the city (so largely taxed in the origin of the present Library) the funds requisite for the establishment of the branches now proposed; and it will be seen by the appended estimate that the major part of the first year's augmented rate will therefore be absorbed in the purchase of books and the cost of the necessary furniture, shelving, and fittings.

In preparing the estimate of the annual working expenses, your Committee have been guided by the facts and information supplied by reports of the Lending Libraries of Liverpool, which have proved so remarkably successful, by that of our own and the neighbouring borough, and by the experience of similar agencies connected with Mechanics' and other kindred institutions.

Estimate of Expenses in Establishing three Branch Lending Libraries.

	£
Books—say 2,500 volumes at 2s. 6d. per vol.	320
Fittings and Furniture, &c., say - - - -	130
	450

For the three Branches say £1,350.

Estimate of Annual Working Expenses for each Branch.

	£
Rent of premises- - - - - - - - -	50
Furniture and repairs - - - - - - -	15
Lighting, warming, and cleaning- - - -	50
Salaries—Librarian, £80; Assistant, £26; Errand boy, £8 - - - - - - - -	114
Replacement of books—say 400 volumes at 2s. 6d. - - - - - - - - -	50
Binding—say 500 vols. at 1s. 3d., £31; Printing and Stationery, £20 - - -	51
Incidental Expenses, £10; Repairs and Press-marking of Books, £15 - - -	25
Newspapers and Periodicals - - - - -	30
Sundries - - - - - - - - - - - -	15
	400

Total expense annually of three Branches £1,300.

These recommendations were adopted in their entirety by the Council, and in pursuance of this authorization, a Branch Library was opened on November 23rd, 1857, at No. 221, Stretford Road, Hulme, and another on December 7th of the same year at No. 190, Great Ancoats Street. These libraries were designated the Hulme Branch and

the Ancoats Branch. At the conclusion of the first year's working the Hulme Branch possessed 3,849 volumes and the Ancoats Branch 4,235. The total issue of books at Hulme was 50,129 to 2,608 borrowers and at Ancoats 38,058 to 2,284 readers.

DEATH OF SIR JOHN POTTER.

The following year, 1858, was marked by the death, on the 25th of October, of the man to whom the Free Libraries largely owed their origin. Of Sir John Potter's public life and character Mr. Edwards has given an interesting sketch in his *Free Town Libraries.* It may be worth while to quote what he says about the starting of the subscription for the free library :—

> Sir John Potter began his chief public labour (during the second year of his mayoralty) by taking from his pocket one day, on the Manchester Exchange, a library begging-book. He repeated the experiment soon afterwards in a place where he was wont to feel himself more thoroughly at his ease than even on that Exchange where his name had been so long held in honour. At the head of a board well laden with the choicest of the good things of this life, and surrounded by faces beaming with testimony of the genial enjoyment of them, Sir John Potter was always seen at his best. The enjoyment of the host seemed to increase with the number and joyousness of the guests. Under such happy circumstances, the subscription list opened on the Exchange, went round the table with the wine, and was rapidly and liberally filled up.

On the death of Sir John Potter, the chairmanship was temporarily undertaken by Councillor Alexander McDougall, Senr. In 1859 Councillor Harry Rawson was elected Chairman, and to him succeeded, in 1861, Councillor John King, Jun., Councillor Thomas Baker being appointed Vice-Chairman.

EDWARD EDWARDS, FIRST LIBRARIAN.

The year 1858 also witnessed the termination of Mr. Edwards's tenure of the office of chief librarian, after six years' service. During that period he submitted many valuable reports and suggestions, besides arranging and cataloguing the books forming the nucleus of the libraries, and there is no doubt that these institutions owe a considerable portion of their success to his abilities. In his time of office the number of volumes in the Reference Library increased from 16,013 to 25,858, and in the lending library from 5,305 to 10,029, whilst the issues in the Reference Library grew from 61,080 to 101,991, and in the lending library from 77,232 to 96,117.

Edward Edwards was a native of London, where he was born in the year 1812. Very little is known of his early career, but he undoubtedly received a good education. In 1836 he appeared as a pamphleteer on subjects of public interest, writing among other topics on National Universities, with special reference to the University of London whose Charter was then under discussion. He also obtained some reputation as a numismatist, and in 1837 printed for private circulation a "Descriptive Catalogue of the Medals struck in France and its Dependencies, 1789—1830." In this he notes the deficiencies in the series then in the British Museum. During the same year there appeared from his pen a handsome folio volume devoted to the "Napoleon Medals," the illustrations of the medals being produced by the Collas system of engraving. His next work of importance was a treatise on "The Administrative Economy of the Fine Arts in England" which was published in 1840, when the question of the extent to which the State should interfere, or can usefully interfere, for the promotion of education and for the

encouragement of the fine arts was still a matter on which there existed great diversity of opinion.

In the meantime Mr. Edwards had shown a masterly grasp of the problems of library economy in a printed letter addressed in 1836 to B. Hawes, M.P., and consisting of "Remarks on the Minutes of Evidence before the Select Committee on the British Museum of 1835." In this, as in his own evidence before the Committee in January, 1836, he asks for greater accessibility, a regular supply of books, a reformation in the state of the catalogues, and a better departmental organization. The deficiencies of the library in those days as regards foreign literature were insisted upon with emphasis. This pamphlet, with some additions, he reprinted in 1839, and on Feb. 7th of that year the Museum authorities appointed him as a supernumerary assistant in the printed book department, for special employment on the new catalogue ordered by the trustees.

Edwards was one of the four coadjutors of Mr. Panizzi in framing the ninety-one rules for the formation of the catalogue, the others being John Winter Jones, afterwards principal librarian; Thomas Watts, afterwards keeper of the printed books, and Serjeant Parry who afterwards attained distinction in the legal profession. As Panizzi is generally credited with a large amount of the autocratic spirit it is interesting to know that Mr. Edwards always bore testimony to the consideration he gave to their opinions when they chanced to diverge from his own. Panizzi, in fact, always put matters of dispute to the vote and loyally abode by the decisions of the majority. Mr. Edwards was an important witness before each of the Select Committees which, between 1836 and 1850, examined into the management of our great national library.

On the commencement of the catalogue Edwards was assigned to the duty of cataloguing the collection of civil war tracts, formed under Charles I. and the Commonwealth by the bookseller Thomason, and containing more than thirty thousand separate pieces. These were entirely catalogued by him. The task seems to have absorbed his energies for several years, or else any other literary work which he may have produced was anonymous. About 1846 he began to devote great attention to the statistics of libraries, collected returns supplied by foreign librarians or excerpted by himself from foreign publications, and published the results in the *Athenæum*. He contributed to the *British Quarterly Review* in 1847 a paper on "Libraries in London and Paris"; read a paper before the Statistical Society in 1848, and in the same year printed for private circulation "Remarks upon the paucity of libraries freely open to the public in the British Empire." Unfortunately his statistics were frequently fallacious, and Mr. Watts, in a series of letters published in the *Athenæum* under the signature "Verificator," easily showed that Edwards's assertions and conclusions were not entirely to be relied on. They had served, however, to make him a popular authority, and when Mr. William Ewart secured the appointment of a Select Committee on Public Libraries in 1849, Mr. Edwards was the first and principal witness examined. Among the other witnesses were Mr. Thomas Jones, Librarian of Chetham's College, Manchester, and Joseph Brotherton, M.P., who told the Committee of the action that had been taken at his suggestion for the establishment of a free library in connection with the Peel Park Museum in Salford.

It was natural that Edwards should be offered the librarianship of the first important free library established under Mr. Ewart's Act, which he was the more disposed to accept, as his engagement at the Museum had from various

causes ceased to be satisfactory to himself or the authorities. He accordingly became the first librarian of the Manchester Free Library and applied himself with much energy to the management and development of the institution. His project for a classified catalogue was published in 1855, in the form of a letter to Sir John Potter. He printed a number of other reports and pamphlets connected with the work of the Free Library, and one of them was resented as an attack upon the catalogue of the Portico Library, which he had severely criticised. This involved him in a paper war with Mr. W. H. G. Ord and Dr. Frank Renaud. He was also the first to protest against the limitation of expenditure on public libraries, his report on the Manchester Library, dated 1853, containing these suggestions for the amendment of the Act then in force :—

The chief amendments now needed are, I submit—

1. The omission of the limit affixed to the rate, leaving it to be settled by Town Councils, according to the circumstances of each town, at their own discretion, and upon their ordinary responsibility.

2. The omission of the prohibitory clause as to taking a new poll within less than two years after a negative decision. This certainly might be left to the decision of the Town Council in each case.

3. The extension to all Town Councils of the powers which by local Acts have already been given to those of Manchester and Liverpool, in respect of the purchase of books, &c., out of all monies which they may lawfully appropriate to public libraries and museums.

The two last reforms have been obtained, but the most mischievous thing of all, the limitation of the rate, yet remains to retard and prevent the progress of one of the most popular and enlightened movements of modern times.

Whilst engaged in Manchester, he continued his literary investigations, and in 1855 published an acceptable contribution to local history, dealing, under the

title of "Manchester Worthies and their Foundations," with the endowments of Thomas La Warre, Hugh Oldham, Humphrey Chetham, William Hulme, and John Owens.

The relations of the librarian of a free library and his committee frequently require tact and forbearance on both sides, and these were certainly wanting on the part of Edwards, whose temper was naturally impatient of control, and who admits in the pamphlet already mentioned that he had been taxed both with indifference to economy and with an undue regard for his own reputation.

Difficulties arose which, after considerable discussion, led to his resignation in 1858 of the position of chief librarian. After a brief experience as partner in a bookselling firm, he devoted himself entirely to literature and bibliography. Before his removal from Manchester there appeared what must be regarded as his most important work, "The Memoirs of Libraries," published in 1859, in two large volumes, which, it may be noted as a curious circumstance, were printed at Leipsic. This book, with all its admitted defects, remains the most considerable contribution that has been made by any Englishman to library science. In 1864 he published a volume of "Chapters of the Biographical History of the French Academy." In the appendix to this he describes the monastic chronicle entitled "Liber de Hyda," which he discovered whilst arranging the library of the Earl of Macclesfield. This chronicle he edited in 1866 for the Rolls Series. The history and management of libraries always had the first claim upon his attention, and in 1864 he issued "Libraries and Founders of Libraries," which contains the result of much literary and archæological research, and forms a valuable and necessary supplement to the "Memoirs of Libraries." He next turned his

attention to one of his favourite heroes, and on "The Life of Sir Walter Ralegh," published in 1868, expended an enormous amount of labour. The second volume is particularly valuable, containing for the first time a complete edition of Raleigh's correspondence; the memoir also has considerable merit, but it appeared almost simultaneously with J. A. St. John's, and it was remarked with surprise that each biography appeared to be deficient in whatever gave interest to the other, and that the two would need to be blended to produce a really satisfactory work. As a mere piece of by-play he compiled a volume on "Exmouth and its Neighbourhood, Ancient and Modern," which appeared, but without his name, also in 1868. In the following year he issued "Free Town Libraries, their formation, management, and history; in Britain, France, Germany, and America." In this volume he has told the story of the foundation of the Manchester Public Libraries. In 1870 he made another contribution to library history in his "Lives of the Founders of the British Museum." Although this work must be supplemented and may perhaps be superseded by others, it is likely to remain the groundwork of every future history. It is in general accurate as well as painstaking, and evinces a most creditable impartiality.

Edwards next accepted an engagement to catalogue the library of Queen's College, Oxford, which occupied him for several years. On the formation of the Library Association in 1877 he was proposed as its first President, but he declined the honour and the deafness from which he was by this time suffering would alone have been an insuperable obstacle to his discharge of the office; yet he was much gratified by his election in 1882 as honorary member of that Association. His failing health and slender resources gave anxiety to his friends, and the Provost and

Fellows of Queen's College, by a memorial under their common seal, petitioned Lord Beaconsfield on his behalf for a pension. This application was also backed up by Alderman Curtis, then Mayor of Manchester, and by Sir Thomas Baker, chairman of the Free Libraries Committee. The memorial was not immediately successful; but in 1883, on the recommendation of Mr. Gladstone, the Queen granted him a Civil List pension of £80. After the completion of his Oxford engagement he retired to Niton, in the Isle of Wight, and occupied himself with projects for a recast of his "Memoirs of Libraries," with great alterations and improvements.

A prospectus of the intended work was issued by Edwards, who also negotiated for the appearance of a portion of it in the *Library Chronicle*, and was understood to have collected considerable material for it, but it does not seem to be known whether this still exists. His last published book was a "Handbook to Lists of Collective Biography," undertaken in conjunction with Mr. C. Hole, the first and only part of which appeared in 1885. He also wrote the article on "Libraries" and the greater part of the article "Newspapers" in the 8th edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." He died at Niton, in the Isle of Wight, on the 10th February, 1886.

Notwithstanding serious faults and frequent failures, Edwards's name will always be associated with the history of librarianship in England. His services in connection with the free library movement were very valuable, and he did much to awaken attention to the defects of English libraries and librarianship. As a literary historian he was erudite and industrious, though not sufficiently discriminating. His works occupy a place of their own, and will always remain valuable mines of information. His opinions on library matters,

whether expressed in his evidence before the Museums Committee or in his own writings, are almost always sensible and sound. They exhibit few traces of that vehemence of temperament and that incapacity for harmonious co-operation with others which were at the root of most of his failures, and placed him in a false position for so great a part of his life. The institutions on whose behalf he spent himself so lavishly came before the era of compulsory education. It may well be that in the future, with the general spread of elementary instruction, they will have even more influence than they have had in the past as instruments by which the best that has been thought and written on any problem is made accessible to all.*

R. W. SMILES, SECOND LIBRARIAN.

Mr. Edwards was succeeded by Mr. Robert Wilson Smiles, formerly Secretary of the Lancashire Public Schools Association, and brother of Dr. Samuel Smiles, the author of *Self Help*. Mr. Smiles was a pronounced educationalist, and he devoted much care and labour to the formation of an educational department in the Reference Library. This section consisted of class and school books, maps, diagrams, and many kinds of apparatus then in use for educational purposes, and was intended to furnish "a ready and efficient channel by which publishers might bring their issues under the notice of those most directly interested." It was also thought that such a section would afford a more satisfactory means of ascertaining the respective merits of educational publications than the advertisements and notices which appeared in educational and other journals. A circular addressed to the educational publishers of the country was sent out, was

*I am indebted to the article on Edwards in the "Dictionary of National Biography" for much of the information here given."

ROCHDALE ROAD BRANCH READING ROOM.

well received, and the suggestion was generously supported. In his report issued not long after the formation of the section Mr. Smiles says "This department now includes 1,048 books, maps, diagrams, sets of books and lessons, &c. Many schoolmasters, public lecturers, professional men, and others interested in practical instruction, have visited this department during the year." It was, however, after a few years, discontinued.

Another of his useful undertakings was the establishment, early in 1862, of a special department for the accommodation of juvenile readers. Some 120 volumes of books likely to appeal to their tastes were provided and two tables in the Lending Library Newsroom were set apart for their use. The result proved the arrangement to possess so many and such valuable advantages, that from this small beginning has grown the extensive system of Boys' Reading Rooms which is now one of the most striking and useful characteristics of public library work in Manchester.

THE ROCHDALE ROAD BRANCH.

During Mr. Smiles's librarianship the third Branch Library was opened in Livesey Street, Rochdale Road, on June 4th, 1860. As this was the first building specially designed and erected for its purpose much interest was manifested in the opening ceremony, and there was a large attendance of the public on the occasion. Councillor Rawson, then chairman of the committee, presided. Here follows a report of the proceedings :—

> On the platform were Ivie Mackie, Mayor of Manchester ; the Revs. Canon Richson, M.A., Rector of St. Andrew's, Ancoats ; W. Richardson, of St. John's, Miles Platting ; F. W. Davies, of St. Peter's, Oldham Road ; W. Edwards, Wesleyan ; E. Hopkinson, Missionary ; Messrs. Joseph Heron, Town Clerk ; J. G. Lynde, City Surveyor ; Charles Swallow, Agent of the Bible Society ; Alderman Goadsby, and Councillors Bake, Horsfall,

Penny, Ogden, Worthington, and Warburton; R. W. Smiles, Principal Librarian; James Bellhouse, the Branch Librarian, and others.

Councillor Harry Rawson, in opening the proceedings of the evening, observed that he had been flattered by his respected colleagues of the free library committee with the request that he would undertake the honourable position of chairman of that meeting, and conduct the proceedings. In accordance with a custom which might perhaps in the present case be 'more honoured in the breach than in the observance,' he would venture to offer some preliminary observations, studiously, however, endeavouring to render them pertinent to the occasion, and as brief as might be compatible with such explanations and statements as might seem, if not demanded, at least not inappropriate to the object which had called them together that evening. Some three and a-half years ago, the free library committee became conscious that the rapidly-growing population of the city—the extension of its boundaries in those parts especially farthest from the centre—rendered it desirable to take some steps with a view to the augmentation of the Free Library's usefulness, and to the carrying of its beneficent operations and influences into districts so far removed from Campfield as to be practically debarred from participation in its advantages. Accordingly plans were prepared, which in due course were submitted to the City Council by the then chairman of the committee, the late Sir John Potter, to whose happy lot it thus fell, not only to foster into being the original library, but to propose those extensions which the success of its operations alike suggested and justified. The Corporation approved of and sanctioned the scheme, and it was determined to place one branch library in Hulme, one in Ancoats, contiguous to Ardwick, and a third in Rochdale Road. In the other portions of the city, premises had been selected and operations commenced; but in the Rochdale Road district great difficulty was experienced, and whilst conducting enquiries for premises, the success of the Hulme and the Ancoats branches encouraged the committee to venture on the erection of a building, which they determined should combine all the requirements and conveniences of a commodious and comfortable library and

newsroom, with capacity for future extension. Plans were prepared, and much deliberation was expended upon them. They were especially fortunate in having the efficient and zealous aid of Mr. Lynde, the city surveyor, under whose eye the contractor had fulfilled his engagements, and the result was the completion of the building in which they were then assembled, and whose operations they purposed that evening to inaugurate. It was most honourable to Manchester that it was the first city to avail itself of the powers of the Public Free Libraries Act—most honourable that it was the first city to outgrow even the liberal provisions originally made for its intellectual wants, and to seek additional resources. In respect of this new branch, he was convinced there was reason to anticipate a successful career, from the fact that the two branch free libraries already in operation were a decided success. At the Hulme Library, the first year, the number of volumes lent out was 50,129, the daily average being 215; the second year, 67,231 volumes were lent out, being an average of 226 daily; the daily average number of visitors to the newsroom was 322. At Ancoats branch, in the first year, there were issued 38,058 volumes, or an average of 169 daily, with 318 visitors daily to the newsroom; in the second year, the number of books lent was 47,626, or an average of 161 per day. The Campfield Library newsroom drew a daily average of 1,289 persons; so that the total number visiting the three public free newsrooms was, on an average 1,929 daily. The average number of books lent per day from the three libraries collectively was 1,042 volumes. When the Rochdale Road numbers were added to the three others he had named the results would be so vast, that it required the assurance of actual experience to enable them fully to realise their significance, and seeing what they proclaimed as the results of efforts made for popular education in a most efficient form, by one unquestionably powerful municipality, it was indeed cheering and satisfactory to reflect that seventeen cities and boroughs had already in operation these beneficent agencies. Mr. Smiles their librarian, was constantly receiving inquiries as to the management, &c., of the present institution in Manchester, for guidance in other towns, to which he devoted, with much satisfaction, his best attention.

Shortly would Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Blackburn be added to the list of Free Public Libraries; and Marylebone, Bridgewater, Gloucester, Brighton, Lancaster, and Glasgow were moving in the matter. He had looked through the reports of the Bolton, Cambridge, Sheffield, Birkenhead, Westminster, Liverpool, and Salford libraries, and found all to declare, in most emphatic terms, first, that the expectations of the promoters had been exceeded; second, that no damage had been done to the books but what was astonishing from its inconsiderableness; and, that the actual losses sustained were of a marvellously unimportant character. In the report of the Liverpool Library for six years (1852 to 1858), the circulation was represented to have been one million, and the loss only amounted to 30s. In Manchester, during five years, in which time it had circulated 790,000 books, the loss sustained had only been twenty volumes, averaging perhaps 2s. each. In Salford, at the end of 1855, with one unimportant exception, no book had been damaged, lost, or stolen, for which compensation had not been paid. And if these things were done in the green wood, what might be done in the dry? If such were the achievements of free libraries in the past, what might they not anticipate from their future? If they had accomplished so much under the disadvantages of novelty and inexperience—and of the comparatively limited demand for reading which alone a partial education of the people could supply—what would they not do when the improvements and extension of education, youthful and adult, now so rapidly progressing, have had time to produce their natural, inevitable, and most satisfactory effects? In 1838 the government grant for education was £20,000. In 1860 it was £793,000. Was there not a wonderful significance in this fact alone? He wished them to bear in mind that every well-conducted school, in giving elementary instruction, fosters the love of knowledge and creates a taste for reading. That cheap popular literature must act, and be re-acted on by this improvement; and that every mechanic's institution, every mutual improvement society, every one of the numerous intellectual appliances now being attached to their Sunday-schools must augment the number of readers and students, and it was impossible for them, as

friends of popular instruction—believing that only a people enlightened could form a nation permanently free and enduringly happy—not to feel elated by the prospect of the expanding and almost boundless usefulness which lies open to the free libraries and newsrooms of our various municipalities.

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Ivie Mackie), observed he had been called upon to declare that the Free Library was open; but he thought such an announcement was unnecessary, as it had been proved by the very large meeting before them. Although the room was a spacious one, yet it appeared to him that it was far too small, and he was glad to observe that it was well ventilated. The principle of ventilation had been known for centuries, but it was only in recent years that the secret of carrying the principle into practice had been discovered. He would advise all not only to make a good use of their time in improving themselves, but also to make a good use of their money. He had been often tempted, when he was young, to enjoy himself in the leisure he possessed, and spend his money for that object; but he had learned to deny himself in small things, and so had risen to the position in which he was privileged to stand. A man who could not assist himself would not be one likely to benefit from the assistance of others; and then, again, no man could assist another who did not care to assist himself. As all men were in some measure dependent upon others, and as all were affected in one way or another by the prosperity or adversity of those around, so it was important that every man should learn to help himself, that they might be able to assist their neighbours. They must remember, too, that unless they took advantage of small things, they would never have the opportunity of taking care of large things; they might be able to get a great deal of information out of books, but unless they learned from the book of life, from the book of experience, mere book reading would not do much good. He hoped the inhabitants of that district would avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them by the opening of that free library.

Professor Greenwood, B.A., of Owens College, rose to move the first resolution. He recalled to the mind of those present the very important part taken in the

establishment of the free libraries by the late Sir John Potter, whose memory every working man would hold dear on that account. The resolution was as follows:—

> That this meeting rejoices in the great success which has attended the establishment of public free libraries in the country, and in the evidence they have afforded of the desire of the people to avail themselves of the means thereby furnished for their social and intellectual advancement.

He traced the history of the free library scheme in Manchester, and said that out of 75,000 volumes issued in the course of last year no less than 58,000 might be classed under the general term of light literature. [The 58,000 volumes here referred to included literary miscellanies and collective works, magazines and reviews, encyclopædias, dictionaries and philological works, and poetry and the drama.] This was, perhaps, much too large a proportion; but it was equally true of all of them that after a hard day's work they naturally read that which did not demand a very great effort of their thinking powers. And while remembering that it was not wise and safe to read this class of works alone, the remedy was to be found not in reading books they had no taste for, which would prove unavailing, but in choosing the best works on the subjects to which their tastes directed them; and, he trusted, the quality of reading, as well as the quantity, was being improved. He mentioned the gratifying fact, that in consequence of the reports of distinguished visitors, the example of Manchester had been followed in Berlin and other cities in Germany.

Councillor Rumney, in seconding the resolution, defended the perusal of the highest works of fiction, as calculated to develop the reflective faculties and refine the feelings. He thought that if a system of house-to-house visitation were adopted in the district, the benefits of the library might be brought within the reach of many who, without such an instrumentality, would never hear of its establishment.

Mr. Charles Swallow supported the resolution. He referred to the numerous translations of the scriptures which had been presented by the Bible Society to the

reference department of the Manchester Free Library. He hoped that the institution would be useful in every sense, and that the books behind him would be the means of affording the working men of that locality the opportunity of gaining a wholesome and useful knowledge of every subject they contained. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Canon Richson next moved: 'That this meeting regards with satisfaction the opening of this branch Free Library and Newsroom, and trusts that the opportunities of self-improvement and recreation which it will afford, will be extensively used by the population of this neighbourhood.' He objected to the word 'trusts' in the resolution, as there was no doubt at all about the fact that the opportunities afforded to the working classes would be made use of, and that the result would be a very beneficial one. He regarded these free libraries as an instalment of what was to come in the way of education for the people. He was not satisfied with what was done for education. It was true that the friends of education for the moment were beaten, that is, they were obliged to be quiet; but their spirits were not broken, they were as ready as ever for action, and would triumph yet. He was thoroughly persuaded that something like the principle which had been proposed would yet be adopted in this country. The time would come—and these libraries would help it forward—when the working man would say to the government of this country, 'I will not submit to the necessity of my child being pauperised to get education; it shall be a civil right.' This was the true and just basis they advocated, and it would be fully recognised hereafter.

The Rev. W. Richardson, rector of St. John's, Miles Platting, seconded the motion, and it passed with applause.

Mr. Duffy, in obedience to the general call of the meeting, mounted the platform, and stated that he had merely come to see the fulfilment of his desire for that third branch library. As a working man he had always been favourable to education, and had been connected with most of such movements in Manchester. His friend Mr. Smiles would remember that he was a member of the Lancashire Public School Association. Living

as he did at the top of Ancoats, he had not time to visit Campfield, and as there were many thousands of books there unused, he thought something might be done to extend their usefulness. At that time he read a very able lecture on 'National Education,' by their worthy representative Mr. Thomas Bazley, in which regret was expressed that the working classes did not avail themselves more largely of these valuable institutions. He felt rather indignant at this, and penned a letter in reply to the newspaper, stating that if institutions were only placed in their way they would avail themselves of them. There were many of their wealthy friends on that platform, and as it was not often that a working man had an opportunity of telling them what he thought, he would do so. The Athenæum was making a successful appeal to the merchants of Manchester to assist this grand middle-class institution, but working men could scarcely get a shilling for their Working Men's College, in Ancoats—which had done a deal of good. Again, the institution at Rusholme had raised a large amount by a bazaar and other means. The working classes wanted some of this sympathy and help. They wanted a college in Rochdale Road, and a college in Hulme, and must have them.

Mr. Norbury, a member of the original Working Men's Committee, was also called upon to speak, and in a speech of much humour referred to the beneficial operation of the free libraries and other similar institutions.

The first year's working of the new branch showed that its 3,446 volumes reached a total of 59,194 records of issue to 2,303 borrowers. In 1870 the building was enlarged by including in it the portion which had previously been used as the dwelling of the librarian. Again in 1885 it was found necessary to increase the accommodation, which was done by the removal of some houses adjoining the building. A boys' room was also formed beneath the newsroom extension, and opened on October 12th, 1885.

DONATIONS AND GIFTS.

This year, 1860, was fruitful in gifts to the stock of books in the libraries. Upwards of 1,000 volumes of works

chiefly of an educational character, were presented by their respective publishers. Lord Overstone gave a set of his reprints of scarce tracts on Commerce, and Mr. James Heywood a set of the Camden Society's publications, together with other works. A society entitled the "Scientific Library Association" was also formed, having for its object the purchase of scientific books to be deposited in the reference library. They set before themselves a magnificent ideal, nothing less than "to deposit in the library all the best books on the manufacuring industry, statistics, antiquities, engineering, mining, geology, chemistry, mineralogy, meteorology, astronomy, natural history, botany, anatomy and physiology, comparative anatomy, &c." There may have been glorious virtue in that "&c.," but human hopes and human intentions are ofttimes vain, and so it proved with this association, which existed only about a year, during which time it presented to the library the numbers, as published, of fifteen scientific periodicals, Ure's *Dictionary of Arts*, Hussey's *Mycology* and twenty-nine other volumes. In the following year, 1861, the library of the Miles Platting Mechanics' Institution, numbering about 2,000 volumes, was presented to the Rochdale Road Branch; and about 200 volumes relating to the Society of Friends were given by the Manchester Meeting of that Society.

Among the gifts to the Library about this time was one of the most curious that possibly has ever been made to such an Institution. This was presented by the Directors of the Mechanics' Institution, and consisted of a collection of plaster casts, made for the once famous phrenologists, Messrs. Gall and Spurzheim, and completed by Mr. Wm. Bally, an apostle of theirs, who practised the occult science of phrenology in Manchester. The casts numbering some 760, included the heads of statesmen, poets,

lawyers, murderers, and other celebrated gentlemen of the past and of the generation then present, and were placed on exhibition in an upper room in the Reference Library. After some years the collection was sent to the Museum in Queen's Park, belonging to the Corporation.

THE REFERENCE LIBRARY CATALOGUE QUESTION.

Even prior to the Library being formally vested in the Corporation, much discussion had taken place on the subject of a catalogue. There was great diversity of opinion among the members of the original committee on this important question, but ultimately Mr. Edwards drew up a special report, in which he proposed a plan for a classified catalogue, supplemented by two indexes, one of authors, and the other of topics. His classification was founded on the well-known system of Brunet, with modifications to meet the special exigencies of the case. This plan was adopted by the committee, and the work was in preparation when Mr. Edwards resigned. His successor carried on the task on the same lines, and the first volume, containing the books in Class I., Theology, was printed in 1860. But little progress was, however, afterwards made, and the committee, becoming dissatisfied with the long delay, advertised in May, 1862, for a competent person to prepare a catalogue of the books in the reference library, then numbering about 30,000 volumes. Amongst the applicants was Mr. Andrea Crestadoro, Ph.D., whose offer to complete the catalogue within two years was accepted. The catalogue was finished within the specified time, and was placed in the hands of the public in 1864. It consists of two parts, the first being a list of authors' names in alphabetical order, anonymous works being placed under their subject, and the second an index of subjects. The work gave great

satisfaction, and on Mr. Smiles's resignation of the chief librarianship in April, 1864, after an official service of six years, Dr. Crestadoro was appointed his successor.

THE HULME BRANCH.

Councillor Thomas Baker was elected Chairman of the Committee in 1864, and the first official duty of importance he performed was the opening of a new building for the Hulme Branch Library. The inaugural meeting was held in the Hulme Town Hall, Stretford Road, on June 15th, 1866. Among those present were William Bowker, the Mayor of Manchester; Councillor Baker, Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee; Aldermen Bennett, Clark, Bake, and Rumney; Councillors Stracey, Warburton, Brougham, T. Warburton, Vertegans, Whitehouse, Marshall, Mc.Gill, Ingham, Jas. Nield, Murray, Heys, G. Booth, Alcock, Wm. Booth, Joseph Thompson, Ashmore, Townsend, Ashton, Clowes, Anderson, Craston, Dyson, Eastwood, Hampson, Swanwick, Grantham, Birch, Hope, Craven, and Livesley; the Rev. F. C. Woodhouse, Incumbent of St. Mary's, Hulme; the Rev. Canon Toole (Roman Catholic), St. Wilfred's; the Rev. Jas. Gwyther (Independent); the Rev. Geo. Bowden (Wesleyan); the Rev. S. A. Steinthal (Unitarian); the Rev. John Henn; Professor Greenwood, of Owens College; Saml. Crompton, M.D., Mr. C. Swallow, Mr. Richard Haworth, Mr. Thos. Schofield, Capt. Palin, Chief Constable; Mr. R. H. Gibson, Mr. W. Griffiths, Mr. Harry Rawson; A. Crestadoro, Ph.D., Principal Librarian; Mr. Talbot, Assistant Town Clerk; Mr. Martin, City Treasurer; Mr. Lynde, City Surveyor, and others.

The company proceeded to the new Library and Newsroom, the convenience and spaciousness of which elicited general expressions of approbation. At the

public meeting which followed, the Chair was taken by Mr. Thomas Baker, as Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee. From the commencement of the proceedings the spacious hall was crowded in every part.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said:— The inhabitants of Hulme well knew that during the last two or three years a very handsome building had been rising adjoining the Town Hall, in which they were now assembled; and they would also know that that building was intended to be devoted to the purposes of a Library and a Newsroom for the free use of anybody who chose to frequent them. It would also be known to most people that the management of the Free Libraries and Newsrooms in Manchester was vested in a Committee of the Corporation. That Committee had thought it desirable that the opening of this large institution should be commemorated by a public meeting, and they had, for that purpose, invited the attendance of the public that evening. In introducing the work of the evening, it was not his endeavour to make a long speech. He preferred to confine his remarks to the origin and progress of the Free Library in the township of Hulme. Gentlemen might, perhaps, be aware that the first branch Library in Manchester was established in Hulme, and he must say that the 23rd of November, 1857, when the Library was opened, was a very great day for that township. The building in which the books were placed and then offered for perusal, was a comparatively insignificant building, and its pretensions were very small. But it was quite clear after the first few months that the inhabitants of the district intended to avail themselves fully of the advantages that were proffered to them. He proposed to give them, in the first instance, an account of the number of readers from the time of its establishment to the present year, and then they would be able to judge for themselves whether the Library had answered the purpose for which it was established. In the first year of its being opened, when the books were located in a comparatively small house on that side of the road, and not very far from the room in which they were assembled, 215 volumes per day were issued, making during the year an aggregate of 50,129 volumes.

Upwards of 50,000 volumes were read during the first year of the library being established, though that year had comprised only 233 days, for the report of the free libraries has always been made up to the 5th of September, and the report was made up to the month of September in that year. In the second year of its establishment 226 volumes per day were issued, or an aggregate of 67,231 volumes per year. In the third year of its establishment the daily issue was 231, the aggregate issue for the year 64,598 volumes. In the fourth year the daily issue was 257, the aggregate for the year being 77,395 volumes. In the fifth year the daily issue was 305 volumes per day, and the yearly aggregate 91,763. In the sixth year the daily issue was 319, and the aggregate issue close upon 96,000. In the seventh year the daily issue was 296, and the aggregate during the year 89,000. During the last year ending September, 1865, the daily issue was 318, and the aggregate for the year nearly 96,000 volumes. If those who were now sitting before him had been the committee who had the management of this library, they would say that an institution which issued 96,000 books in the course of the year deserved a better and more commodious lodging than that in which the library was then located. There was thus abundant evidence for supposing that a larger number of readers would present themselves, and that a much larger number of volumes would be issued if the accommodation was increased. So thought the committee, and they brought the subject before the council, who, he was happy to say, approved of it, and authorised the erection of the handsome building they had met to inaugurate. When the library was first opened there were only 3,036 volumes in it, but last September it contained more than double that number. In order to give the meeting some idea of the class of works of which the library consisted, he would read to them a few statistics of the classification. On theology and philosophy there were 187 volumes; history, biography, voyages, and travels, 1,957; politics, commerce, &c., 87; science and arts, 510; general literature, 3,730; and books for the blind, 20. He wished to make one or two remarks with reference to those books for the blind. Some time ago it was suggested that they should have in their free libraries a complete set of the Holy Scriptures, printed in embossed

characters for the use of the blind. The cost was considerable, but the committee incurred the cost, and divided the books amongst the branch libraries, so that in every branch there would now be found some portion of the Holy Scriptures, which the blind might have the use of by applying for. The result had been in every way satisfactory, and he believed the books had been a source of comfort to those who were to some extent shut out from society by the loss of sight. Light literature seemed to be in the greatest demand by the readers, but works of a heavier character received a very fair share of attention. In the annual report of the Manchester Public Free Libraries there are classified tables as to the kind of books that are read. He had now lying before him the report for the year 1864, from which he would give examples of some of the issues in Hulme. First, as regards the Magazines: *Temple Bar*, *Cornhill*, *London Society*, *Once a Week*, *All the Year Round*, and *Chambers' Journal* were issued between 40 and 50 times in the course of the year; Lamb's *Tales from Shakspere*, Lloyd's *Scandinavian Adventures*, Kinglake's *Crimean War*, Livingstone's *Travels in Africa*, and Waugh's *Lancashire Sketches* were issued between 30 and 40 times in the course of the year; Macaulay, Du Chaillu, Smiles, Ruskin, Bunyan, Colenso, Fox, Arnold, and Robertson were favourite authors. The Steam-Engine, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Political Economy, Chemistry, and Music were subjects which came in for their share of attention. In the 11th report, the authors of prose fiction most read were set down, and Bulwer Lytton was at the head of them; then followed Cooper, De Staël, Dickens, Ainsworth, and Sir Walter Scott. Poetry had its readers, and Tennyson, Moore, Byron, Longfellow, Burns, and Scott had their respective admirers. He was not aware he could tell them anything more about the Library, but he might say a few words about the Newsroom. The number of daily visitors to this in 1860, was 327; in 1861, 364; in 1864, 378; and in 1865, 400. Gentlemen who knew how small and inadequate for such a purpose were the rooms in the building recently occupied as a Free Library would, he was sure, wonder how there could have been so many as 400 persons frequenting them daily; and would agree with him in saying that it was

quite time an effort should be made to afford greater accommodation than they had hitherto possessed. It had been recorded that when the poll was taken in Hulme for the adoption of the Free Libraries Act in Manchester, six ratepayers voted at the township office of Hulme against it. He wished those six persons were present, that they might hear the statement he had made as to the success of Free Libraries here ; for if they did he felt sure they would admit themselves in error, and would make every effort to establish them now where not established. The design of the new building originated in the surveyors' department of the Manchester Town Hall. How well it was adapted for the purpose, had been mentioned to him by many persons that night. The newsroom was fit for a queen to read in. One word as to the cost, and he had done. £4,000 was the amount which had been spent in its erection and internal fittings, and the land was subject to a chief rent of £50. He hoped and trusted the inhabitants of Hulme would show their appreciation of it, and thus let the Libraries Committee see that their efforts in the erection of that building had not been in vain.

The Mayor, Alderman Bowker, said: He had the greatest pleasure in appearing before them on that occasion, as he had been connected with the Manchester Free Libraries from their commencement, and during the time they had been in the hands of the corporation. When first proposed, the value of Free Libraries was little understood. The public were afraid of them and looked upon them with jealousy ; in some places the proposition to establish them was rejected altogether. That shadow has passed away and a light has dawned upon the public mind. The experience of a dozen years has proved the immense benefit they are capable of conferring on the people. In conclusion, he would now declare the Hulme Branch Free Library open to the public, free of any charge whatever—the working man, the rich and poor, high and low, had a right to enter its doors and avail themselves of the advantages it offered. He hoped the inhabitants of Hulme, who had hitherto used the library to an extent which did them great credit, would use it still more, especially as they would now have a beautiful and com-

fortable reading-room, in which they would find it far more profitable to spend an hour than spending their time in a beer-house or public-house.

The Rev. F. C. Woodhouse, M.A., Rector of St. Mary's, Hulme, read the following sentiment—

That this meeting expresses its hearty gratification at the establishment of a Branch Free Library in Hulme, and said

It afforded him much pleasure to take part in the proceedings of that day, and to see the Hulme Branch of the Free Library transferred to a more commodious and more worthy building; for the work which they were doing that day was one that would be beneficial not to the present generation only, but to many generations to come. It would afford to all persons, especially to those who might otherwise be deprived of it, the privilege of access to a good library of entertaining, instructive, improving books—no small advantage this. For, what do we mean by books, but the written thoughts of the minds of men—men perhaps long dead, but still living to us in their works—men who have been highly gifted by nature, and who have improved their gifts by culture and by years of study and labour, and whose learning and experience and discoveries are open to us in the pages they have handed down to us. The labour of a life—the deep thoughts of the greatest minds,—these are free to us, and we may make ourselves the happy possessors of them by the perusal of a moderate-sized volume; so that where a life of mental labour ended we may begin, and reap the rich harvest which others have sown and toiled long to secure. The foundations are laid, the materials are supplied, it only requires a little steady labour, a little perseverance, and withal a most pleasurable occupation of time to gain a store of knowledge which generations before us never could attain to, and which will be to the possessor a never-failing source of satisfaction—a real exaltation of his character and mental status, and itself a foundation whereon to build fresh structures in one or other of the almost numberless departments of knowledge. All of us know the pleasure of walking through beautiful parks and gardens; we see and enjoy the soft, elastic turf, the wide slopes, the graceful undulations, and the shady woods; we revel in the sweet scent of flowers,

CHORLTON AND ARDWICK BRANCH.

CHORLTON AND ARDWICK READING ROOM.

and gaze with delight at their lovely colours and graceful forms. The floral wealth of the world is gathered for our enjoyment; tropical plants of strange form, exquisite foliage, delicate pencillings, infinite variety, all this is ours for the time, the owner cannot monopolize the whole fruits of his taste, and labour, and expenditure, and he seldom is so selfish as to wish it; if only we have the taste and feeling to appreciate all the wonders and beauties gathered at that place, then, for the time at least, *they are ours*, and we need envy no one, but rather rejoice in our present pleasure, and come away refined and refreshed, having our minds stored with many a pleasant thought, and our imagination raised from sensual and sordid things to things high, and pure, and lovely, worthy of the attention of intelligent and immortal beings made in the image of God. And is not the great world of books a field of pleasure of such a kind? From every quarter of the world, from every country, there is a contribution of literary wealth of thoughts, of experience, of imagination, free to all; history, science, biography, poetry, travels, with all their varied treasures, suited to the tastes of every class of readers; instruction for the enquiring, thoughts for the thoughtful, experience for those who are wise enough to feel their want of it, an endless supply for the endless demand for knowledge, which the mind of man, rightly exercised, is sure to make. Hear what the great Lord Bacon said about books: 'The images of men's wits and knowledges remain in books, exempted from the wrongs of time, and capable of perpetual renovation. Neither are they fitly called images, because they generate still, and cast their seeds into the minds of others, provoking and causing infinite actions and opinions in succeeding ages; so that if the invention of the ship was thought noble, which carrieth riches and commodities from place to place, and consociateth the most remote regions in participation of their fruits, how much more are letters to be magnified, which, as ships, pass through the vast seas of time, and make ages so distant to participate of wisdom, illuminations, and inventions, the one of the other.' Surely these words may be re-echoed by anyone who has head and heart, and who has sympathy with the wondrous powers of the human mind—the deep yearnings of the human heart—the great and varied doings of

men in all ages and in all parts of the world. And if Lord Bacon spoke in this way of books in his day, what would he say if he could live now in the midst of the wonderful supply of books, so vastly greater than he ever knew or imagined? for now the difficulty is not so much to get books on any subject as to find time to read them. In this busy age, and pre-eminently in this busy place, most men have more to do than they have time to do it in. But, at any rate, the want of means to buy books need not hinder those who have the desire to read; for these free libraries bring almost to a man's door the means of gratifying his wishes in a way that no former generation ever enjoyed. But, while we say this, we must not forget that upwards of 200 years ago the good Humphrey Chetham founded the first free library in England, here in Manchester. And we should especially remember it to-day, when we are engaged in promoting the same good work in a more extended way. In this work, then, he rejoiced to take part, in however humble a way, feeling sure that in that noble room, that day opened, thousands will find pleasure that will entail no regrets, wealth that will bring with it no cares, and which none can take away, employment suitable for the mind in every stage of life from youth to age, and gain that will make no one else poorer.

Councillor Marshall said that the first premises used for the Hulme Branch Free Library were at a rental of £38 a year, which after a short time were found insufficient for the purpose, and other premises were taken at a rent of £60 a year. Municipal institutions were without doubt of great advantage to the community, particularly to out-townships. If Hulme had been left to itself, it would have been many years before it could have reared such a beautiful structure as had been that day opened by the Mayor. He believed that the opening of a Branch Library was an epoch in the history of Hulme, and that this day's proceedings would also be considered a circumstance to remember with pleasure. He considered free libraries as institutions of a progressive age—institutions aiding, in a material degree, the enlightened civilisation of the day. He for one looked forward to the time when such advantages would arise from these and kindred institutions as the present age could scarcely conceive.

Mr. Richard Haworth said that it was the first time he had had the pleasure and opportunity of being on these premises. He often passed them, and always admired them. He thought the buildings did great credit to the Committee who had had charge of their erection. They were substantial, commodious, convenient, central, and sufficiently ornamental; for, whilst there was an entire absence of everything pretentious, yet they combined so much beauty of architecture as to command attention and elevate the tastes of the people. The sentiment put into his hand was—

> That this meeting expresses its hearty gratification at the establishment of the Branch Free Library in Hulme.

The thought which lay at the foundation of this resolution was, that a free library was a good thing, and fortunately at present there were very few if any who doubted its usefulness, for, the experience of society since its establishment had been such as to remove all question of its utility, it is now an admitted fact. Then, if a free library was a good thing, it was important its benefits should be brought within the reach of those for whose use it was intended, that they might have no difficulty in availing themselves of its advantages, hence, this meeting had reason 'to express its hearty gratification at the establishment of this Branch Library in Hulme,' for the situation is so central, and the conditions so simple and reasonable, that none need be deprived of its use who are at all worthy of its privileges. Reference was made by the Rev. Mr. Woodhouse to the Chetham Library. It was a library that reflected great credit and honor upon the princely person who left the money for its endowment, but it had unfortunately been of comparatively little service from the fact of its having so many conditions and limitations, such as, for instance, that the books must be read on the premises, at hours which virtually exclude the mass of the people; and although many books in that library are of immense value as works of reference, yet the great bulk of them are not such as the people generally take an interest in. The Public Free Library endeavoured to meet these objections in supplying what the people require—in

meeting their circumstances as far as practicable, by establishing branch libraries.

The Rev. James Gwyther said it had been his privilege to labour for nearly forty years amongst the population of Hulme, and to-day he seemed to feel a deeper interest in the township than he had ever done before. He looked back and traced with great delight the progress which had been made, and for much that had been done he offered, in the name of his fellow-townsmen, his warm and grateful thanks to the Corporation of Manchester. When first he came to reside here, Hulme was a far different place to what was seen to-day. Its unpaved streets and defective police arrangements were things of the past. Of public buildings, St. George's Church was the only one that deserved the name. That was then an ornament, and it continued to be an ornament to the township; but much had been done since then, both to improve and adorn. Much of this was due to the intelligent activity of the Corporation; and among the good things which they had done there was nothing which yielded to his mind more thorough satisfaction than the erection of the noble pile of buildings in which the meeting had now assembled. Not only were the arrangements excellent, and the accommodation suited to the various purposes for which the hall was intended, but the taste displayed, both on the interior and exterior, gave to the whole an educational and refining character. This quality enhanced its value—whilst it gratified the eye it refined the taste, and would minister to the self-respect of the people, so that their fellow-townsmen might well be proud of the hall in which they were met, and especially of the noble Library which was that day opened. The resolution which he had been requested to move was that 'recognising the value of reading as a means of elevating the public taste, this meeting rejoices in the erection of this commodious building in Hulme for a Free Library and Newsroom.' Who, he asked, could have heard, without a blush, reflections which had been, not unjustly, cast upon the country for the ignorance and moral degradation, for the removal of which too little had yet been done? But all was not dark. Besides the establishment of

schools, something else had been done and was doing to awaken a desire for knowledge, to quicken the intellect, refine the tastes, and elevate the feelings. He spoke not now of direct moral or religious means, but of indirect and powerful agencies. The penny newspaper had been and was a mighty agent; the improved class of light literature, as well as of scientific information which was flowing so plentifully from the press, had accomplished much, and would mightily help forward the work. And now that the artizans, and every other man in the community had free access to a large, handsome, well-ventilated, and well-lighted room, well furnished with newspapers and periodicals, with an extensive and well furnished library at his command, it might be hoped that many would be detached from those haunts where the indulgences only debase and degrade. That many had already found rich benefits could not be doubted. Of these, some instances were already known; one example he would name. A youth, well known to him, had been employed in a warehouse in the city. Having an hour and a quarter allowed for dinner, he regularly spent three-quarters of an hour in the Library in Campfield. Nor was it in works of fiction his time had been spent. Of these he had no complaint to make when the style was pure and the sentiment healthful; for recreation they served an important purpose. But this young man's choice was history; and after feasting upon the enchanting pages of Macaulay, he followed a steady course of historical reading, and his present well-stored mind owed much that it had attained to the admirable facilities which the Free Library first placed within his reach. Following in a corresponding course, he trusted many would in future years speak of this branch of the Library as having done much, very much, to raise their tastes and elevate their minds, training them to be intelligent and active citizens, and large-hearted patriots—an honour to their country, and a blessing to the world.

The Rev. Canon Toole said he had great pleasure in supporting the sentiment which had been proposed and seconded, and also in adding his share to the general congratulation on the event of the evening, as well as the tribute of his admiration to that which had been

already expressed respecting the beauty and fitness of the new library. He considered the library as a most beneficial institution. It would enable the youth of Hulme to continue the education which had begun in their boyhood's years, and as their minds became more matured, sound and truthful books obtained from it would furnish the material by which they might extend the boundary and scope of that first education, which time and other circumstances had limited. In the language of the sentiment that had been proposed to them, it would be the 'means of elevating the public taste,' by making the public familiar with the acquirements of those who were profound in learning, and with the sentiments and words of those who possessed noble, refined, and cultivated minds. This was indeed a benefit of the highest importance to a community. There was another ground for his congratulations with his fellow citizens on this occasion, that this library would be the means of increasing the sum of happiness, of domestic happiness, in so many families. It would provide them not only with instruction in literature, in history, in art and science, but it would also contribute its share, and a great share, to many a cheerfully spent evening around the hearth of home. Whilst the household would listen to the readers of its books, age would forget its cares in the interest of some narrative, and youth would fill its mind with new ideas of beauty and of wisdom as it would hear of the wonders of foreign travel, or appropriate the thoughts of some meditative author. It would increase happiness, for it would add to the comforts and the joys of home, and be the means to win men away from the haunts of folly and of dissipation, where too many seek for pleasure in vain ; it would teach them to find a more real, more exalted, and more permanent pleasure ; one, if properly, virtuously, and truthfully directed, unstained by guilt and unfollowed by remorse. He gave his most cordial support to the sentiment.

The Rev. George Bowden moved—

> May the inhabitants of the district, by largely availing themselves of the Library and Newsroom, testify their appreciation of the great institution which is this evening inaugurated.

He then said : As pledged by my sacred calling to

do all I can for the destruction of ignorance and wrong, I have much pleasure in taking part in the proceedings of this evening, for I reckon this institution will be a grand engine, helping in the destruction of many forms of ignorance and wrong. Macaulay says that any given generation very much resembles a caravan in the desert, which, looking behind, sees waters, groves, and herbage ; and looking before, sees also waters, groves, and herbage ; while underneath, and near to it, all is barren, brown, and bare. But the scene behind and before is an illusion. It is the mirage they soon discover if they investigate by returning or pressing forward. This was scarcely the thought of that Hulme generation which was gathered in that room. They seemed well satisfied with the present, and not disposed to be robbed of their present gratification either by 'the former days were better than these,' or, 'there is a good time coming.' And yet there was a sense in which they resembled the caravan. According to addresses delivered there that night, they saw in the Hulme of the past, green fields and running streams ; and in the Hulme to come, in their projected new park saw also the trees and swards of good days to come. The resolution I have to move is an earnest invitation from the Libraries Committee to the inhabitants of this district. The sentiment is '*Come!*' Come *all* of you. Come *soon.* Come *often.* We have selected the fattest and best of our intellectual flocks and herds ; our shelves are filled with the best thoughts of the men of the past ; our tables are spread with the best thoughts of the men of the present on passing events ; we have that which is substantial and nutritious ; we have that which is light and pleasant. Come, and devour what we have provided. We want you to prefer the choice spirits on our shelves, rather than the spirits on some other shelves hard by. We want you to relish the punch of our counters rather than that which is offered too plentifully near. Choose Macaulay, Reid, Brown, Scott, Thackeray & Co., before Old Tom, Allsopp, Barclay, Perkins & Co. The value of this institution will much depend on the facilities given for access to it. I enquired from the chairman of the Free Libraries Committee 'what were the conditions on which a man could enter and use the newsroom?' 'He must be decently dressed, and conduct himself properly ; that is all' I thought,

'decently dressed!' that is a phrase that may have an awkward and unpleasant application by some officious doorkeeper, so I said, 'what do you mean, sir, by being decently dressed?' 'I mean' was the reply, 'we could not do with a sweep in his working dress, or a man filthy.' 'Oh!' I said, 'then you mean that any man who is clean, and who keeps the rules, may enter in and avail himself, without questioning, of your provision?' 'Yes,' was the answer. So it matters not whether the dress is cotton or wool, coarse or fine, old or new, you may come and welcome, if you are only clean and you keep the rules. We often find that common blessings are least valued, and cheap things little prized. Ladies are not the only people who like things better for being 'far fetched and dear bought.' It seems as though vegetables were only valuable as they were three months before their season. I have often longed to see in the gentleman's garden some of the old English flowers. How precious to Dr. Carey, in India, was the daisy, which we do not notice. How honoured is the sparrow in Australia, and how despised here. If a glass of water cost as much as champagne, we should value it more. Let it be that you shall prize this institution according to its real worth; not only *have* the Library, but *appreciate* it. This is a 'great institution.' It is so as an expression of the enlightened thought and generous sentiment of this city. It is an expression of the enlightened thought of the governing body. It shows that they think 'we exist for the good of those we govern.' That the people do not exist for the honour and aggrandisement of those who rule, but those who rule exist to seek the welfare of the people. I do not mean for a moment to endorse the sentiment, 'the voice of the people is the voice of God.' I believe in minorities. I believe in a higher source of law and of enlightened policy than the mere will of the majority. The governing power does not exist to carry out the whims of the people. It does so, when it grants licenses to sell spirits to all who ask. But when it furnishes to the community a library for which there was no very loud demand, but which it saw would do the people good, it was then in advance of their tastes; such an institution is an expression of enlightened thought. This institution is an expression of generous senti-

HULME BRANCH

HULME BRANCH READING ROOM.

ment. It says ' we do not want to monopolise the pleasures of knowledge to ourselves. We shall enjoy our subscription library and newsroom all the better when we know that those who have not the means of securing these things so easily themselves, are thus amply and freely supplied. We shall enjoy our newspaper and octavo the more because we know that you are not without them.' This institution must exercise a great influence on the future. We shall have an extension of the franchise. I say this without committing myself to any special school of politicians. I speak to a fact which all acknowledge. It is necessary that they who receive the franchise should be educated to the exercise of that trust. They should know who are the leaders of thought in the land—who are the ablest statesmen. They should have access to the histories of nations, and treatises on political economy. They should see all sides of a question. If a man sees the newspaper at home, he takes in one paper, and sees matter on the one side on which the editor or proprietors present it. If a man read the *Star*, I would like him to see the *Standard*; and if he read the *Standard*, I would that he should see the *Times* or the *Star*. The right and true never suffer by thorough scrutiny. Let him see all sides, and he will find that no one man or party yet engrossed all the goodness or all the wisdom. It was Dr. Payson's rule ' never live a day without trying to make some one happy.' I am glad to be the instrument of giving this invitation, because I see this institution will give to many much true pleasure. I see many an invalid's room brightened by the books from the library. I see many a home circle made more attractive and happy as the father or brother read aloud to the gathered household. I see many a little child looking out for his father's return home from the library and eagerly seizing the book to see if there are any pictures there. I see many a country walk made pleasanter by the knowledge of strata, of insects, or of plants gotten here. I see the little George Stephensons, John Kittos, and Hugh Millers, with eager faces and bright eyes, coming to renew their books, instead of standing in the cold at the old bookstall. Dr. Chalmers says, the present generation is the oldest and wisest, because it inherits the work, thought, and experience of

the past. So it should be. But if it is to be so, then the stored-up thought and experience of the past which is found in books must be made easy of access to all.

Mr. Councillor Nield moved—

That the warmest thanks are due and are hereby tendered to the contributors of books to the Free Libraries.

In putting this resolution the Chairman said,—The Free Libraries Committee have only a limited sum of money at their disposal, namely, the produce of the penny rate, which for the present year may be set down in round numbers as £4,500. With this they have to meet the expenses of the Reference Library at Campfield and the five Lending Libraries. How the money has hitherto been disposed of may be seen by anyone who will refer to the proceedings of the City Council. For the erection of the New Branch Library and Newsroom for Hulme, the opening of which had brought them together that evening, the Committee have had to borrow money, and a Sinking Fund has had, consequently, to be established for the discharge of such loan, which will absorb a certain sum of money per annum out of the amount of the penny rate. The wear and tear of books in the Lending Libraries forms a considerable item of expenditure, and that item will be geatly increased by the additional readers who will come to the commodious building they had just finished. Of this wear and tear they might form some idea, when he informed them that within the last month 700 volumes had been thrown out of the Hulme Branch Library as unfit for use, and they have been replaced with an addition making together 1,000 volumes, while there is room on the shelves for 1,000 volumes more. Now, if gentlemen will assist the Committee by the contribution of books, they will be rendering efficient aid in furtherance of the objects for which these lending libraries were established. They will be doing a great service to the Committee and to the community in which they live—service, about the utility of which there can be no question.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Baker for presiding at the meeting concluded the proceedings.

The Hulme Branch building is in the Italian style

and of brick, with front elevation of stone. The interior is divided by a glass screen into two parts, the one nearest the entrance forming the library, and the other, which is reached by passing through the library, forms the newsroom. The newsroom is a spacious hall about forty-seven by forty-three feet, open to the roof and lighted on three sides. Stands, on which newspapers are placed, run round the walls. Tables are also ranged along the centre, on which upwards of 120 current numbers of periodicals are placed, and the bareness of the walls is relieved by a number of engravings.

The library has shelf-room for about 20,000 volumes. The accommodation which was more than ample when the building was opened in 1866, has again become inadequate, and the committee have by way of relieving the pressure to some extent, formed a boys' reading-room in the basement. This room, which was opened on September 6th, 1880, provides for over 200 boys.

THE CHORLTON AND ARDWICK BRANCH.

This worthy accomplishment did not exhaust the activities of the Committee during the record year of 1866, for on October 6th another, the fourth, branch library was opened for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the district of Chorlton and Ardwick.

The proceedings commenced with a Soirée, which was followed by a Public Meeting in the Congregational Schoolroom, next to the library building in Rusholme Road, which was densely crowded. The Meeting was presided over by Councillor Thomas Baker, Chairman of the Manchester Public Free Libraries Committee, who was supported by Wm. Bowker, Mayor of Manchester, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Right Hon. Henry Austin Bruce, M.P. (afterwards Lord Aberdare); Edward James,

Q.C., M.P.; D. Dudley Field, of New York; Sir Eardley Wilmot, Bart; W. T. S. Daniel, Q.C.; Wm. Fairbairn, L.L.D., F.R.S.; Robt. N. Philips, M.P.; Dr. Neilson Hancock (Dublin); Rev. J. Oakley (London); Rev. W. C. Van Meter (Founder of Howard's Mission and Home for little Wanderers, New York); T. P. Bunting, the Rev. Alexander Thompson, A.M. (Independent); Thomas Ashton, John Kendall, (Master of Chorlton High School); Samuel Crompton, M.D.; Charles Swallow; Messrs. Aldermen Nicholls, Curtis, Crewdson, Rumney, and Clark; Councillors Brougham, Worthington, Ingham, Wm. Booth, Hampson, Woodward, Murray, Nield, Vertegans, Marshall, Charles Thompson, Craston, Warburton, Hopkinson, Groome, Hope, King, Woodhouse, Anderton, Ashton, Livesley, Clowes, Dyson; Mr. Lynde, City Surveyor; and Mr. Talbot, Assistant Town Clerk.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, said :—They had met that evening to celebrate the inauguration of a new Branch of the Free Lending Library for that city. During the past year the four lending libraries already existing had circulated upwards of 316,000 volumes,or an average of more than 1,000 volumes per day. They might be sure that from such a circulation there must be very great wear and tear of books, some idea of which might be formed when he told them that during the last twelve months about 1,700 volumes had been thrown out of circulation as unfit for use. The appearance of these volumes suggested to him the desirability of ascertaining the length of time they had been in circulation, and the number of borrowers through whose hands they had passed. On expressing his desire to have some information on these points to their chief librarian, Mr. Crestadoro, he undertook to make the necessary investigation and communicate the result. And now that he had mentioned the name of Mr. Crestadoro, he thought he ought not to allow the opportunity to pass without bearing his humble testimony to the zeal, the ability, and the unpretending demeanour of that gentleman. If the libraries had been a success, he deserved to share the

credit of it equally with the Free Libraries Commitee. Mr. Crestadoro furnished him with a report—and mark, it was a report prepared for his private use, at a time when this meeting was not thought of, so that they might take it as being a simple statement of the result of his inquiries. Sixteen books had been taken at random, four from each Lending Library, and on being examined as to the service rendered by each before being laid aside as unfit for use, it was found that each volume had on an average been issued 212 times, and that during its circulation it had been bound and rebound three times, exclusive of its service in its original cloth binding. Examples: *The False Heir*, by Power, had been issued 163 times in its original cloth boards, 140 times after its first binding, and 52 times after its second binding; total issues, 355 times. You will all admit that this book has done its duty. *The Hunter's Feast*, by Reid, was bound and placed in circulation in May, 1861, and issued 72 times; it was rebound in January, 1863, and issued 72 times; it was bound a third time in June, 1864, and issued 50 times; it was bound a fourth time in April, 1865, and issued 46 times, the last issue being in May, 1866; total issues, 260 times—duration of service, five years. *Con Cregan*, by Lever, was placed in circulation in its original cloth boards in May, 1863, and issued 40 times; it was bound in June, 1864, and issued 42 times; the last issue was dated June 12th, 1865; total issues, 82 times,—service two years. *Once a Week*, vol. 4, bound and circulated in September 1861, and issued 125 times; rebound in December, 1863, and issued 58 times; last issue, July 11th, 1865; total issues, 183 times,—service three years and eight months. Some interesting results arise out of this investigation. One volume is read 355 times before it becomes unfit for use, while another is worn out after 82 times reading. This difference is to be accounted for in several ways. The quality of the paper, the extent of margin, and the goodness of the first binding all enter into the calculation, for if the paper is good, the margin ample, and the volume well bound in the first instance, it will stand more wear and tear than a volume printed on poor paper with a small margin and whose binding is inferior. Hence it will appear that cheap literature may not be cheap to a lending library.

He would now advert to the origin of the Branch Library, the inauguration of which they were met to celebrate. The increasing population of the south and south-west sides of the city suggested to the Free Libraries Committee the necessity of having another Branch Lending Library between Hulme and Ancoats, and the Council, on being appealed to, gave the Committee authority to purchase the land and building adjoining the room in which they were assembled. Certain alterations and additions were necessary for adapting the premises to the purposes of a library and newsroom, and the Committee called in the aid of Mr. Alfred Waterhouse as their architect. The ability with which he had discharged the task imposed upon him they who had gone over the building that evening would be able to judge of equally with himself. They would have perceived how spacious and convenient the library was ; how spacious also and lofty the newsroom with its open gothic roof. The cost of the building was £4,000, without the books, of which they had placed about 4,800 volumes on the shelves, a larger number than had at the commencement been put in any other of the branch lending libraries. The shelves would hold double that number, and if the gentlemen present had any books which they were willing to give, the Libraries Committee would thankfully receive them. They might perhaps be surprised that the Committee were not able to do more in supplying, at its opening, a library of that character, but the amount of money received from the 1d. rate was only about £4,000 per annum, of which they had for some years past been able to appropriate only £1,000 per annum in the purchase and binding of books. The aggregate number of volumes in the four Lending Libraries was 40,000; when they got that branch in full operation and the shelves filled they would have an aggregate number of 50,000. That would give them a circulation of about 1,300 volumes per day. The amount of practical good which must result from such a circulation he would leave them to judge, but that the effect, both moral and intellectual, must be very great there could be no question. They might not have amongst the readers any mute inglorious Milton ; they might not have any Dalton, or Watt, or Arkwright, but he knew they had

many quiet students who applied themselves diligently to the literature which was put within their reach, and there was nothing extravagant in believing that amongst the 30,000 readers who annually used the Reference Department for the purpose of studying the specifications of patents, there would be some who, by their discoveries or inventions, would hereafter become benefactors to their race, and do their fellow-creatures and the State some service. He believed, too, that their Lending Libraries had already been of great use in making the social position of masters and workmen better understood. The principle was being admitted that capital and labour were not opposed, but were mutually dependent and supporting, and people were beginning to see that there was not necessarily anything antagonistic in the relative position of master and workman. He was not aware that anything more remained for him to touch upon, except that he believed the Newsroom about to be opened would be a success. It was so in the Hulme Branch, where he had gone frequently in the evening, and counted as many as 200 readers in it at one time. There was every reason for believing that the Newsroom attached to this New Branch for Chorlton and Ardwick would be as well frequented.

The Mayor (William Bowker), said the duty he had to perform was the simple one of declaring the Rusholme Road Branch Free Library open to the public. He had had the pleasure and satisfaction of working in connection with the Manchester Free Libraries since their commencement. He had watched their progress from that time, had seen their extension by one branch after another being established, and had witnessed the great good they had effected amongst the working classes by drawing them from the beerhouses to which they would otherwise have resorted. Some time ago, the Committee purchased a chapel adjacent to the building they were then assembled in, which they had coverted into a Free Library, and he believed it would be a great blessing to the district for which it was intended. Its doors were now thrown open. It invited the inhabitants to come in and see the rich stores placed therein by the Committee. The greatest reward which the Committee could receive for their labours was

that the public would avail themselves of the facilities thus provided for them. The Committee were now about building a Branch Library in the neighbourhood of Ancoats, and he believed they would not rest satisfied until they had placed within reach of the working men of Manchester such an opportunity of acquiring knowledge as they would not be slow in taking advantage of. When he was a young man there were no such advantages as now existed ; newspapers were 5d., 6d., and 7d. each ; now they could have plenty of excellent yet cheap papers, plenty of literature, both light and heavy, which required greater care and study. He was sure that the advantages of the present day had only to be seized to be appreciated, and if people would only avail themselves of that Free Library they would be better citizens, and many of them would hold a better place in society than they now do ; for they would, by their studies, be made better men. This was a free and open country, where every man's talents and energies were recognised, but many a man was lost through not cultivating the talents with which God had blessed him.

The Earl of Shaftesbury next addressed the meeting. He said that when their secretary requested him to come there and move a resolution, he confessed he was not prepared for such a gathering as that ; and, to tell the truth, he felt a little shy. But still he must take courage, for that was the third public meeting he had attended that day. The meeting he now addressed he must consider as the cream of the men of Manchester ; one of those he attended that day—a grand gathering of the ragged class—he might probably consider the skimmed milk. He went down to one of the worst parts of Manchester for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone of a ragged school, and he trusted that they, who had raised themselves to the benefits and blessings they now enjoyed, would do all that lay in their power to raise those lower parts of this great city to the level of their own enjoyment. Whether it was in the cream or in the skimmed milk he saw the same characteristics of Lancashire men ; the same earnestness of purpose ; the same warmth of heart ; the same determination, and all those noble characteristics that had been long peculiar to the northern parts of this country,

but especially to the people of Lancashire. When he saw those men and women, dirty as they were, and the children dirtier and more ragged, he saw it in the expression of their eyes, in the earnest attention they gave to the words he spoke to them, in the uncommon zeal with which they pursued him afterwards to shake hands with him. He saw seeds of nobleness in them, and felt that, if by God's grace they could but lift those people out of the mire, they would be fitted to rank with the princes of the earth. It was his good fortune to be present at the foundation of the Free Libraries, a great many years ago, and to attend the original opening meeting. He then saw that great benefits would result from the institution, but he was not prepared for such large results in so short a space of time. He now came there, and found that which was a child had grown up to be a married person, with four big, stout children. He hoped these big, stout children would soon have equally big, stout grandchildren. And he hoped the whole race would imitate the virtues and the efficiencies of the parent stock. He had been very much struck with the details given by their worthy Chairman, as to the manner in which the various books had been used. No doubt there was a great prevalence of taste for works of fiction, and he was not going to blame them for it. People engaged in the tedium of life, in the details of daily work, required to have their minds refreshed by going out of the spheres in which their business threw them; still, it would be better if they would mix with the light a little of the graver kind of literature—a little wine with the water. When the Chairman stated that one book had been so frequently used that it had been four times bound, it reminded him of a story once told by a friend of his who, whilst reading a book, was addressed by a person as follows: 'I say, friend, you have got a very learned book there; there is a great deal in it about the urim and thummim. Do you understand all that?' 'Well,' replied his friend, 'I don't understand anything about urim and thummim, but I knows how to use him and thumb him.' Their Lending Library was an admirable institution, because it admitted the women into the participation of the husband's privileges, by enabling the men to take books home, and thus combine domestic happiness and duty

with literary acquisition. This he considered a great blessing, because, where husbands attended clubs for social intercourse the women did not participate in the benefits ; but here, a man might take out a book, carry it home, and read it to his wife and children. He contended, therefore, that they had founded an institution upon the very best principle, and one which could not fail to produce great good amongst them. He hoped, then, that they would recollect what great blessings they now enjoyed, what benefits were now put within their reach, and what opportunities were now offered for their mental, moral, and spiritual culture, which constituted the real life of man. Let them recollect that when they had raised themselves above the condition of mere toil they had advanced themselves in the dignity of thinking beings, and that toil and intellectual and moral dignity, were compatible in the highest degree. Why, who did they call a gentleman ? A gentleman was not essentially connected with high birth, nor the gifts of fortune ; they called a man a gentleman by ordinary courtesy because he happened to be in an important position in life, but the real essence of a gentleman lay in the heart, it lay in the character, it lay in the whole demeanour ; and he would almost undertake to say that all those ragged fellows he saw that afternoon might in a short time be converted into real gentlemen. Who was the finest specimen of a gentleman, he would ask ? Was there ever presented in the whole page of history a finer specimen of a gentleman than the apostle Paul ? Let any one read his speech before Agrippa, or his epistle to Philemon, and then say whether it was possible to find more noble or gentlemanlike sentiments than those which fell from St. Paul. And why could not the artisan, the mechanic, or the cotton operative imitate that noble example, when he recollected that he himself occupied, in a worldly sense, as high a position as Paul the tent maker ? Therefore, he maintained that the dignity of character, a high moral bearing, and everything that elevated man, were not incompatible with toil, and that in many instances toil facilitated intellectual advancement. The resolution or sentiment he had to move was,—

> The Chorlton and Ardwick Branch Free Library, and may the inhabitants appreciate the advantages it offered.

He proposed that sincerely and with all his heart, for he trusted they would appreciate these advantages in all their bearings. Well did their worthy Mayor say that these institutions were antagonistic to the vilest institutions that ever crept into a city—the beerhouses and gin palaces. He trusted that every man who became a borrower, every man who availed himself of the blessings that Library offered, every man who took from it a book to read for his wife and children, every man who felt that by so doing he was advancing in the scale of social life, would heartily and openly protest against the establishment and extension of those great abominations that were the degradation of any nation, but which, he was afraid, were to a great extent the peculiar degradation of our own.

Mr. Edward James, Q.C., M.P., said he joined with them most heartily in the expression of thanks which had emanated from that large assembly and the noble lord who had just addressed them, to those who had provided the noble Institution which they were that night inaugurating for the benefit of the poorer classes especially. Now, could anybody in that large assembly doubt that there were great advantages provided for them by the establishment of this Branch Library. Why establish institutions like this which they were then inaugurating? The necessities of life would some day compel those who were brought up in ragged schools to resort to work for an honest living, and then it was that such institutions as free libraries would be of use to them ; for there, in the evenings, they could resort, free of all cost, and cultivate that intellect and those faculties with which God had endowed them. But for such institutions as free libraries, where would be the means of enabling such people as he had that afternoon seen in Charter Street to cultivate their minds? Once taught to read, they would read, and if they had no free libraries to resort to, they would be driven to read the cheap and degrading literature with which their land and age overflowed. They could not afford to buy valuable books, and hence if they could not do that, and could not resort to such places as these, there was no chance of their fostering and nurturing, and increasing those seeds of intelligence which the ragged schools had planted within them. All

such, that noble Free Library invited to partake of that which it had provided. There, in a well-warmed, well-ventilated, well-lighted room, they could come and read the newspapers and periodicals, or borrow books to take home with them to read by their own firesides. Their opportunities were thus great, and he hoped they would duly appreciate them. There were others in the community, however, who were worthy of consideration. The noble Free Libraries, happily, were not destined for the use of any one particular class, but they were for the use of all classes of the community. As he had gone through the various Branch Libraries in Manchester, he had found, on inquiry, that of those who used them not a few were boys from school. He saw before him a goodly number of youths who no doubt attended school, and they would understand him when he said that he was much amused to find that even those youths who went to superior schools, and learnt Latin and Greek, came to these Free Libraries for the purpose of what the schoolmasters call 'cribbing,' that was, to get translations of their tasks. Well, he did not find fault, for even that was good. Some, perhaps, would say it was not just, but he held that in its use it was good. It was only in the abuse of the thing that it was evil. There was no harm in schoolboys coming to the Free Libraries to consult translations with the view of assisting them. That was another way in which these Libraries might be made useful; but they were not established for schoolboys only, any more than for those who had been educated at the ragged schools. Lord Shaftesbury had called the attention of the meeting to one thing which was worthy of their consideration for a moment, inasmuch as he looked upon it as one of the greatest of evils. He should like to calculate the number of beer-shops, of taverns, and of spirit-vaults which where open in every street of this great city. Why were there, he wanted to know, so many of them? Why, he supposed it was on the ordinary principles of supply and demand. That it was so they might rest assured. No man would set up a tavern, vault, or beer-shop, unless it would pay him—and it would not pay him unless the people resorted there for the purpose of drinking. The more they could divert the attention of the people of this country from the public-house, gin-shops, beer-shops, and places

of that description, by opening such institutions as free libraries, and enable them to cultivate their minds, the more effectually would they diminish and put an end to the degrading vice of drunkenness, which now brought about so much misery, wretchedness, and crime. Hence, one of the advantages of that grand institution (the free libraries) was, that they might cultivate, not only the intellect, but the moral faculties of the people, and thus diminish crime and its evils throughout the land. But that was not all; they had the advantage in that establishment of comfort, which he was sorry to say many in this great city did not enjoy at their own homes, by their own firesides. The advantages of comfort, of heat, and of light, such as they found in that excellent Institution, were of no small consequence to those who came there to read; and those who had not such advantages at home, to read their papers and books, would find them here in profusion. But there were times when the people who would fain go, could not—times of sickness, distress, old age—the times when it was of the greatest importance to the comforts of home, that they should have the opportunity there of reading and cultivating those faculties with which God had blessed them. With that view, the Free Libraries Committee had established these Branch Lending Libraries, and at such times as he had named, it was that they came into full force. But whether the books were borrowed and taken home from this Library, were read by the bed of sickness, or read in the Institution itself, by husband, wife, or child, the advantages derivable from the free lending libraries were incalculable; and were it not for such libraries as they were opening, how could the poor, whether in sickness or in health, ever be able to secure the valuable books that they could borrow here, free from all cost? They could never have the chance of reading them, for the expense would be too great. These, then, were some of the advantages produced by establishments like this; and he earnestly besought them—the men, women, and children of Manchester—to seize those advantages, and appreciate them.

Mr. Dudley Field, of New York, supported the resolution. He said he was sorry that his own city of

New York had no library like that which they were now inaugurating. They had plenty of libraries, but they had there no free library like those in Manchester. The other day, when he was in Liverpool, he entered that noble free library there given by Sir William Brown, and was much struck by the fact that those who came there for books did not receive them as a favour, but as a right. Well, all he could say was, that here, too, in Manchester, they had in their free libraries one of the noblest institutions that man could court—an institution equal to all their wants—and, as far as he could judge, enough for all the population they were intended to serve. Now, with regard to the subject of education, he held that it was the duty of society to provide free education for all—rich and poor. In America, they made that a fundamental principle, believing as they did, that it was far better to impart knowledge than to let people live in ignorance. Every person, man, woman, or child, girl or boy should be provided, at the cost of the State, with the means of free education ; and it was so in the State of New York. There they had large schools, with the best instructors, and every autumn there might be seen notifications posted in all the streets to the effect that those schools were then open to all children free—to rich and poor alike. No one entered there who was not welcome, and who was not taught as well as any other person—the rich and lowly side by side. He did not mean to say that there were no voluntary schools, but some of the richest persons in the state, as a matter of choice, sent their children to the public free schools rather than to the voluntary schools.

The Rev. Alexander Thomson, M.A., minister of Rusholme Road Chapel, said that there was something, no doubt, appropriate and becoming in his addressing to the meeting a few observations, because of the position he held in relation to the schools in which they were assembled, if it were only to bid them welcome and to congratulate them on the work which had that night brought them there. But he came there not to speak, but to see and to hear ; and he must say that he had seen what had delighted him, and had heard what had both instructed and stimulated him, as he hoped they all had done. The object they had met to promote

was one which ought to be highly prized by every true patriot; for what must be the desire of every one who loved his country but this,—that all the advantages which had been acquired by that country, in the course of its progress, should be made accessible to every class of the community. Here we were in this noble England of ours, which was distinguished by the enjoyment of much wealth and prosperity, and by the possession of a free constitution handed down to us by our fathers; and it seemed to him that it should be the desire of every man, that the advantages of that prosperity, and of that free constitution should be extended as far as possible to every class amongst us. But we had also the heritage of a literature such as no nation in the world had ever possessed before. We are in the habit of speaking of the Greek and Roman writers with admiration, and deservedly so, for they led the way as the original instructors of their own and of subsequent ages, but he thought that even the literature of Greece and Rome, and of other European nations, must rank far below the literature of our native land in depth, variety, and comprehensiveness of culture. To the enjoyment of these literary treasures they should seek to welcome all ranks of their countrymen, by placing them easily within their reach. He agreed that there was some use even in works of fiction; but he hoped working men would ascend above these, and remember that our literature could boast such authors as Spenser, Shakspere, Pope, Wordsworth, Tennyson, and others among poets; charming historians, also, like Hallam, Macaulay, and Froude; and then there were books of travel that had recently appeared, full of the most delightful and instructive information, as well as being excellent reading for entertainment, by such men as Speke, Baker, Palgrave, Livingstone, and others. Such books as these he hoped would be sought out and read by many of the working men. These free libraries were admirable and useful institutions, but still they must not over-estimate their influence on society in the diffusion of knowledge. Knowledge did not necessarily imply either wisdom or goodness. A man might be a great reader and still be debased and immoral in character and conduct. Indeed there had lived many such men; but after all they must look to the good which

mental culture was fitted to promote, and not to the evil which sprung up in spite of its influence. They must look on the diffusion of knowledge as subsidiary to the advancement of religion and morals, as co-operating with higher influences,—as giving you a better hold of the minds of men, when you sought to lift them up to nobler heights, to catch a glimpse of the beauty and grandeur of divine truths. These free libraries would contribute to this by spreading the streams of literature over the face of society, among the industrial classes of this great city, just as the Nile in its inundation diffuses its fertilizing waters over the fields, covering them with a rich soil for future harvests. This done, it rested with our ministers and Sunday school teachers to sow the seed of heavenly truth on the soil which these Institutions had thus prepared. In that view, the Chorlton and Ardwick Branch Library, now opened, had the best wishes of himself and his fellow workers there, that it might accomplish all the good which its benevolent promoters designed.

Mr. Wm. Fairbairn, F.R.S., LL.D., said that, if he had consulted his own inclination, he should have deputed some of his friends to address them, as he was more in the constructive line than the speaking art. He could assure them that he should have been very glad to have avoided making a speech to that assembly. However, he would just say that he fully appreciated the great boon now conferred upon that district by the establishment of a Branch Free Library. He felt quite satisfied that no establishment, no institution could be of greater benefit or service to the community, especially to the working classes, than a Free Library. Their worthy Chairman had spoken of the great wear and tear of books. He hoped the wear and tear would be much greater still. He did not know of anything so calculated to improve men's minds as reading, and he considered that a taste for reading was a sure criterion of future distinction. If these Free Libraries could be extended to the surrounding towns, they would prove of the greatest advantage to the public at large, for he felt sure that the intellectual and moral standard of the people would be raised by such privileges. He should be glad to see that noble and excellent institution prosper, and be a benefit to the public.

The Right Hon. H. Austin Bruce, M.P., said that, among the many pleasant and instructive sights he had seen during his brief stay in Manchester, none had given him greater pleasure, none had afforded him more useful instruction than the visit he had paid to the Central Institution of these Free Libraries and its Branches. He understood the commencement of this Free Library was due to a citizen of Manchester, and he was sure the citizens of Manchester felt proud of the liberality and wisdom of that gentleman ; but, after all, it was better that great institutions like these should be carried on by the local authorities ; they then felt that they were only getting what belonged to them—what was their own. He heartily concurred with Mr. Field that it was the duty of the country—he did not say of the State—but it was the duty of the country, represented by its local authorities, to provide education for those that required it, at the public expense. He hoped that, when he next came to Manchester, this movement would have so far progressed that they would not be content with a rate of £4,000 for its support, but that the sum would be five if not ten times that amount. Looking at the demand for amusement and recreation, he could not conceive a greater boon than that supplied by free libraries. He, like others, had been a hard working man, but when he was young there was no such thing for him. When he could escape out of the dreary, dismal toil of his day labour to the delightful paths of literature that were open to him in this Library, it was like passing out of the dark and dirty streets into the fresh air. The sentiment he had to propose was—

> May the Manchester Public Free Libraries be the means of advancing the knowledge of economical and sanitary laws which govern society.

In the discussion that day, his thoughts had been directed to the motion he had to make ; and when he went to the Library he had asked to be shown the corner in which the works on political economy were collected, and he saw they had been well used. He could not conceive at this present time a more important thing than that all classes of society should be thoroughly instructed in the sound principles of political economy. They might take his word for it, that we were entering

on a time of very great trial, unexampled in history; besides the enormous expansion of our trade and the question of emigration, they all knew that in every town in England there were difficult questions to be settled between employer and employed, which required forbearance, discretion, and a sound knowledge of political economy. He had himself, on several occasions, acted as the mediator between masters and men during the prevalence of strikes, which inflicted incalculable misery upon the population. In one case the strike lasted twenty-one weeks, and in the other seven weeks, and many of the people had not yet recovered from the effects thereof. He need not tell them the vast amount of suffering which these strikes entailed upon the women and children; nor did he propose to enter into the justice or injustice of those strikes; but he found prevailing amongst those people a great amount of ignorance as to the true laws of political economy. He believed, however, that such ignorance was fast dispersing. Fifty or sixty years ago, there were few writers on political economy, and the greatest errors were committed, otherwise they would not have had such restrictive imposts as the corn laws, the timber duties, and the navigation laws. All these things until within a very recent period were believed in as necessary to our national existence—believed in, too, by the better-educated and higher classes. Well, if there was so much ignorance of the true principles of political economy among the educated and higher classes, it was not to be wondered at if such ignorance even still prevailed among the uneducated and working classes. Now, however, even the working classes need not be ignorant of the great and true principles of political economy, since there were brought within their reach by such institutions as free libraries the works—the admirable works of John Stuart Mill and other eminent political economists, in which they would—and he earnestly advised working men to read them—find the soundest knowledge of all the great principles which governed their labour. Then there were similar works by Professor Fawcett, which were also excellent and worthy their most attentive study. He now came to another subject on which he wished to say a word or two, namely, the district named Ancoats, where there was a large proportion of the

population of Manchester living in a state of filth, misery, and degradation. There were, he found, as many as five, six, and seven persons in a small house or room—and sometimes more than one family—not living, but "pigging" together; and the stench arising from this over-crowding was so great that a person going into those houses could scarcely stay in them a minute to speak to the inmates. How was it? He could not believe that the local government of Manchester did not do its duty, but he rather believed that to a great extent this over-crowding in large towns and cities was attributable to the ignorance of those who were so situated. In many cases where this dreadful state of things existed, it was shown that the earnings of a family were not less than thirty-five shillings a week. The rich did a great deal, it was true, for the working classes of cities like Manchester, but those classes ought to know that everything could not be done for them: they must do something for themselves. The working men and their wives should be ashamed to have such dirty wretched houses; and he called upon them to reflect seriously on their present condition. The laws that had been passed enabled the City of Manchester to provide for the working population these magnificent Free Libraries, but it often occurred to him that those classes did not sufficiently prize those institutions and those laws, or they would learn to better attend to their own domestic duties. They—the working men—should themselves exercise a little public spirit in matters which concerned themselves and their families. Only on a recent occasion, when he was on a Committee of the House of Commons, many intelligent working men were examined by that Committee, and they were anxious, they said, that their children should not be taken to work in collieries so early, and that they should have an education provided for them. That was reasonable. He asked them if they did not know that already there was a law which said that no child who was not between ten and twelve years of age, and who could read and write, should be taken on the ground? They replied yes, but that in a many cases the law was not observed at all. Well, now they should, he told them, inform against those who so broke the law, for it was utterly impossible for the government to have an inspector in every colliery in the

district or kingdom, as it was for the local authorities to have a sanitary inspector in every street of a city or town. He also told them that they should be the guardians of their own good ; and, if the working classes of Manchester would only make proper use of their Free Libraries, and study the political and sanitary laws, they would see that such was the fact,—would see that it was a thing necessary and a duty incumbent on them, both to themselves and their families.

The Rev W. C. Van Meter said—when he was asked by the Chairman if he would say a word or two to the meeting, his first thought was 'What shall I say that will be appreciated?' Well, he had no difficulty in coming to a conclusion on that point, for he had been kindly conducted that evening, by the Chairman, in company with some others, over the Free Libraries, and they furnished him with a text amply sufficient. In looking over the record he found that 10,626 tickets had been issued to readers or borrowers of books, a fact which caused him to ponder deeply. He thought of the dark surroundings, or dark habitations, in various parts of Manchester, and it seemed to him as if the Centre Free Library stood, shooting out its rays of light, like a brilliant in a sombre setting. That Free Library which they were opening that night was another brilliant light, which in its district would eventually shine away the darkness which now enshrouded it. He had thought of how many homes there are that could be made glad by the establishment of this Library in Rusholme Road, and he felt sure there were many. It must be so. In one of the libraries in which he had been that day, he, on looking round, saw a little boy about thirteen years of age, reading ; his head was resting on his hand ; his eyes were fixed on his book most earnestly, and he was drinking deep of the pure refreshing fountain of literature. He looked at the little fellow with intense interest, and he noted that his elbows were out, that his pantaloons were patch upon patch, and that his shoe soles were worn literally to the foot. But that made no matter—made no difference to him and his book, for he sat wholly absorbed in the volume he was reading, as though there was nobody besides himself in the room. Another boy he saw hurrying as fast as he

could to the Library—as fast as even any man hurried from his shop to the 'rum hole.' This boy was in his shirt sleeves, evidently intent on procuring some volume in which he expected to find a grand banquet for the mind. He also observed two little girls with their tickets, each anxious to get a book to take home to read. Near to them stood a third little boy with his ticket awaiting his turn for a book. Mr. Bruce spoke to him and asked him whether he wanted a story? 'No,' replied the boy, 'I don't want a story, I want a history!' and he had no doubt that that very night Sir Walter Scott was talking to that little boy, and entertaining and instructing him to his heart's content. Now he had no doubt that if the Queen, or some great noble of the land had come to reside in Rusholme Road, the people of that district would feel not only highly honoured, but very proud of the preference given to their locality by such a great personage. Well that great personage,—that great noble was there already, and had taken up his dwelling in the Chorlton and Ardwick Branch Free Library. The people of these townships ought to be proud of their new resident, who, not only was capable, but who would do much good among them, if they would only let him. Let them frequent the Library, and borrow books from it, and the home would be cheered in the winter evenings, when all was drear, dark, and cold without and beyond.

The meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

The interior of the building of the Chorlton and Ardwick Branch is separated by a glass partition into a library and newsroom. It differs, however, from the reading-rooms of the other branch libraries in being provided with alcoves for the reading stands. This was necessitated by the shape of the land at the disposal of the architect, and though picturesque in appearance, its adoption generally cannot be recommended, as the readers in the alcoves are not within the supervision of the librarian. This library can shelve about 20,000 volumes. A large room above the library, originally intended for a

lecture hall was converted into a boys' reading-room, and opened in November, 1878.

In the Library's first year of public utility the borrowers numbered 3,850, the books 6,331, and the issues 87,043.

THE ANCOATS BRANCH.

A new building, which had been erected in Every Street, Ancoats, for the accommodation of that populous district, was opened, but without public ceremony, in September, 1867, the library being removed thither from a shop numbered 190 in Great Ancoats Street.

The building, erected from the designs of Mr. Alfred Waterhouse, is of brick, with stone facings, is in the Gothic style, and is the prettiest of the smaller branch libraries. The newsroom is 60ft. long by 38ft. 6in. wide, and open to the roof, which is of timber-work. A fine window occupies almost the whole of the end wall.

The library is separated by a glass screen from the newsroom, and has shelf-room for about 17,000 volumes. A room above the library is used as a boys' reading-room, and it will seat about 150 lads. This room was opened in January, 1878, and was the first of its kind in Manchester.

LEGACIES AND GIFTS.

No year has passed without being productive of donations to the Libraries, though they have but seldom received a legacy. Amongst the most valuable or interesting of these may be mentioned a collection of Chinese books, numbering 253 volumes, bequeathed by Thomas Bellot, M.R.C.S.; the mill library of Messrs. Clarke Brothers, of 1,712 volumes; and that of Mr. Joseph Thompson, of 1,044 volumes; a copy of Lord Vernon's edition of Dante's *Inferno*, in three folio volumes; 220 volumes from the Trustees of the British Museum; several fine works embodying the results of the expedi-

tions of the United States Coast Survey, and other important books from the American Government. Mr. James Gaskill, who died in 1870, left a legacy of £100 for the purchase of books, chiefly of a scientific character, for the Hulme Branch. With the £90, to which this legacy, intended solely for educational purposes, was reduced after the deduction of the duty, 206 volumes were purchased, and they formed a useful and much-appreciated addition to the more serious side of the literature possessed by the Library.

THE BROTHERTON MEMORIAL FUND.

The Reference Library has also been greatly enriched by the addition of some important illustrated books, purchased from the money transferred to the Committee by the Trustees of the Brotherton Memorial Fund.

The history of this Fund may be briefly sketched. On January 19th, 1857, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Manchester, presided over by Stephen Heelis, then Mayor of Salford, at which it was resolved: "That it is desirable that an enduring Memorial of the late Joseph Brotherton, M.P., should be erected in grateful remembrance of his eminent and invaluable public services, and to testify the respect universally felt for his character." Two Committees were appointed; one to consider and decide upon the nature of the Memorial, and the other to obtain subscriptions. Upwards of £2,500 was subscribed, and it was decided that a statue should be erected in Peel Park, Salford, and a monument placed over Mr. Brotherton's remains in the Salford Cemetery. When these works were completed a sum of money still remained in the hands of the Committee, and this was invested in the purchase of a perpetual annuity of £16 from the Manchester Corporation. The annuity was vested in trustees, to be by them "invested in books, and

presented annually, in rotation, to the Salford Royal Free Library in Peel Park, the Manchester Free Library, the Salford Working Men's College, and the Pendleton Mechanics' Institution." The two latter institutions having become merged in other educational bodies, the recipients of the fund are now the Peel Park Library and the Manchester Public Library in alternate years.

EXPENDITURE ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

The table which follows conveys at a glance the annual expenditure on the Free Libraries since their inception to

Date.	Expenditure.	Net amount of Rate.	Difference below the Rate, showing the amount not levied.
	£	£	£
1852-53—½d. Rate	698	1951	1253
1853-54 ,,	1793	2040	247
1854-55 ,,	1935	2097	162
1855-56 ,,	2116	2116	.....
1856-57 ,,	1747	2103	356
1857-58—1d. Rate	3566	4257	691
1858-59 ,,	3230	4300	1070
1859-60 ,,	3883	4347	464
1860-61 ,,	2446	4417	1971
1861-62 ,,	3560	4587	1027
1862-63 ,,	3660	4625	965
1863-64 ,,	3270	4682	1412
1864-65 ,,	3658	4799	1141
1865-66 ,,	3816	4907	1091
1866-67 ,,	4897	5082	185
1867-68 ,,	4534	5348	814
1868-69 ,,	5000	5696	696
	53809	67354	13545
Less £350 annual appropriation to Museum, commencing 1863			2100
Total amount not levied			£ 11445

ANCOATS BRANCH EXTERIOR.

ANCOATS BRANCH READING ROOM.

the year 1869. For some years the amount which might be expended by Library authorities was limited by law to ½d. in the pound on the rateable value of the property of the community. Then the limit was, in 1857, extended to 1d., at which rate it still remains for the country in general. The Manchester libraries had been worked so economically that £11,445 which might have been used in their maintenance had not been asked for, but as they had largely increased in number of late years, and the cost of management had necessarily risen, the Committee began to feel strongly the pinch of poverty. In their report presented to the Council in 1870, they therefore say :—

> One of the most important subjects which engaged the attention of the Committee during the past year, 1869-70, was the inadequacy of the yearly amount allotted by the Council for the maintenance of the Libraries, and they instituted an inquiry into the principle upon which that amount was calculated. An examination by the Chairman [Mr. Thomas Baker] of the successive Acts of Parliament passed for the management of Public Free Libraries convinced him that, by the 'Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1866,' one penny in the pound upon the gross value of the property in the city was applicable to Public Free Library purposes, instead of one penny in the pound upon its rateable value. This produced upwards of £2,000 per annum more than had previously been considered available for Library purposes. The Town Clerk concurred in the view taken by the Chairman, and the Committee considered they might draw out their estimates for the then commencing and now current financial year upon the more liberal scale justified by the increased income. They appended to these estimates a full explanatory Report, in which they stated that the newly-erected Branch Libraries had never been painted, and were otherwise in an unfinished state, that all the Branches were inadequately supplied with books, and that the Rochdale-road Branch did not afford standing-room to those who frequented it. They proposed, if an

increased income was granted them, to amend these shortcomings. The Council sanctioned the Committee's views, and the result has already been to improve the appearance of the Libraries and greatly increase their working powers.

By authority of this sanction the Library rate from that time was levied on the full rateable value of the city, with certain deductions in payment of the poor rate, until 1891, when, with the approval of the Council, the following clause was inserted in the "Manchester Corporation Bill" of that year:

> For the purposes of the execution within the city of the Public Libraries Act, 1855, and the Acts amending the same, such Acts shall be read and have effect as if the limit thereby imposed on the amount authorised to be paid out of or levied by a rate were twopence instead of one penny in the pound.

This bill received the Royal sanction, and the amount legally leviable still remains at twopence. The average expenditure for the last few years has, however, not exceeded 1½d.

Ever since the authorisation and establishment of the free library system the strict limitation of the amount spendable on the maintenance of public libraries has been felt, especially in small places, as a hardship and a hindrance to the development of institutions which the people want, and of whose helpfulness, and incalculable worth to them, they are convinced. The Library Association has discussed this matter perseveringly, and a clause has more than once been inserted in bills promoted by that body for the amendment of the Libraries Acts, but it has invariably been withdrawn or struck out. Several municipalities have, however, obtained an extension of the amount or the abolition of restriction by clauses in local acts. It is possible that if this process be continued the Government will see the absurdity of the situation and discourage opposition to a reform so palpably and earnestly desired.

GROWTH IN BOOKS AND THEIR USE.

Some conception of the work which had been accomplished by the spending of about £50,000 may be acquired from the following tables, which show the growth of the libraries in books and in the use of them from 1852 to 1870:—

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH LIBRARY IN 1869-70.

Class	Reference Library	Lending Libraries					Total
		Campfield	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Chorlton and Ardwick	
I. II. Theology and Philosophy	2868	652	390	330	286	424	4950
III. History, Biography, &c..	12098	4993	3437	2732	2719	2854	28833
IV. Politics and Commerce...	7112	941	250	90	250	229	8872
V. Science and Arts	4403	1271	1029	799	1043	950	9495
VI. Literature & Polygraphy.	11804	7650	5817	5697	5463	5652	42083
Specifications of Patents..	4018	...	...	...	...	...	4018
Books and vols. of Pamphlets not yet classified.	1377	...	159	...	785	225	2546
Embossed Books for the Blind	...	24	19	22	47	27	139
Totals.....	43680	15531	11101	9670	10593	10361	100936

ANNUAL ISSUES FROM EACH LIBRARY FOR EACH YEAR SINCE THE OPENING TO 1869-70.

Year	Reference Library	Lending Libraries					Annual Total	Daily Average of the Aggregate Issue.
		Campfield	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Chorlton		
1st 1852-3...	61080	77232	Commenced Nov. 23, 1857.	Commenced Dec. 7, 1857.	Commenced June 4, 1860.	Commenced October 8, 1866.	138312	461
2nd 1853-4...	64578	77767					142345	488
3rd 1854-5...	66261	81321					147582	495
4th 1855-6...	70770	85783					156553	523
5th 1856-7...	101991	96117					198108	666
6th 1857-8...	122772	98251	50129	38058			309210	1131
7th 1858-9...	115206	75449	67231	47628			305514	1036
8th 1859-60.	123084	74423	64598	47358	14366		323829	1250
9th 1860-1...	142433	78464	77395	51532	59194		409018	1371
10th 1861-2...	160496	93097	91763	55269	70061		470686	1579
11th 1862-3...	124065	104359	95967	59181	75472		459044	1536
12th 1863-4...	108237	92762	88989	56091	68794		414873	1401
13th 1864-5...	112026	91432	95687	54535	76556		430236	1433
14th 1865-6...	133056	80209	94183	45508	75606		432500	1485
15th 1866-7...	112132	88675	155555	41936	88602	105315	592215	2008
16th 1867-8...	127053	95308	167349	56246	94445	133890	674291	2263
17th 1868-9...	132653	97951	165302	68444	96020	147368	707738	2375
18th 1869-70.	121788	106416	172718	65534	114670	148155	729281	2447

EFFECT OF THE CONDITION OF THE LABOUR MARKET.

On examining these figures, the gradual but sure growth in the issues of books in the two departments from 1852 to 1857 will be seen, and also that when the first two branches were formed the use had risen to nearly half as much again as in the first year of working. Those branches, being situated in the populous districts of Hulme and Ancoats, were from the first exceedingly successful, and added largely to the number of books used, the figures mounting from 198,108 to 309,210 in their opening year. The direful days of the cotton famine, 1862-4, also made their impress upon these figures. To the pathetic scenes of suffering and distress among the factory folk, so feelingly described by Mr. Edwin Waugh, may be added the testimony of Mr. R. W. Smiles, chief librarian at that time, who says in one of his reports that "during the winter of 1861-2 the accommodation in the reference library was found inadequate for the number of readers, every table being completely surrounded, and every chair occupied, a number of youths accommodating themselves by sitting on the warming pipes, where they were to be seen in rows on each side of the room every evening." The figures show a sudden rise from 409,018 in 1860-1 to 470,686 in 1861-2, slightly falling again in 1862-3, and rapidly decreasing when work became plentiful once more. This effect of the condition of the labour market has always been perceptible: when work is good the attendance at the libraries slackens, when bad it increases. Instead of sinking into a condition of utter despair under the cruelty of their sufferings, thousands of the factory hands during the cotton famine passed their days in the reading rooms of the Free Libraries, and by the reading of books or papers diverted their attention for a time from their distress, or possibly were directed to

means of alleviating it. From this circumstance it would seem evident that these libraries, in all times of great social pressure, are, and as education grows more general will increasingly become, potent factors in the maintenance of that law and order which it is essential to uphold if the stability and welfare of the community are to be preserved, no matter how unbearable the special circumstances may seem.

THE CHEETHAM BRANCH.

On January 29th, 1872, the fifth Branch Library was opened in York Street, Cheetham. The building had been formerly used as a school. The alterations required were executed under the supervision of Mr. J. G. Lynde, the city surveyor, and they provided, as far as the space would permit, for the convenience of readers as well as borrowers.

The inaugural proceedings took place in the Newsroom, which was crowded to the full extent of its accommodation. Councillor Thomas Baker, the Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, presided, and amongst those present were William Booth, the Mayor of Manchester; Aldermen Bake and Murray; Councillors Hampson, Worthington, Harwood, Booth, Hodgkinson, Livesley, Ashton, Waterhouse, Fox Turner, Muirhead, Griffin, and others.

The Chairman said they were met that night for the purpose of inaugurating the establishment of a Free Public Library for Cheetham and the adjoining district. In early times Manchester had a reading population, and it possessed in the Chetham Library, which was located so near to where they were then assembled, one of the earliest established free libraries in the Kingdom. It was a public library; but owing to the restrictive regulations by which it was governed, it was of little use to the man whose work occupied the ordinary period of day labour. The small number of hours it was open,

and these in the late morning and early afternoon parts of the day, enabled only the man of leisure to avail himself of the great treasures which that library contained. To this might no doubt be attributed the rise and establishment in the town of libraries of a more popular and accessible character—such as the several subscription libraries, and the many circulating libraries which originated in private individual enterprise. It is a curious circumstance, foreshowing the present state of things in which we are so much interested, that these libraries were to be found not simply in Market-street, King-street, and Exchange-street, which may be regarded as the centre of the city, but in the suburbs of London-road and Medlock-street. In further proof of the efforts made to meet the requirements of the time, the various religious societies in the town had libraries, the use of which in some cases was not confined to those specific congregations. The books in the circulating libraries were as well read as those in our branches; but since that time the Free Library Committee had supplied the wants of the reading population so fully that few of these private libraries are now in existence. His object in drawing attention to these facts was to show that the demand for books was no new one in Manchester. It was gratifying to know that as soon as the Corporation had taken up the matter, and offered the people books on application, and newspapers, if they choose to go to read them, there was no lack of readers, nor the least doubt that the experiment would prove a great success. It was most satisfactory to be able to say that every branch of the Free Library was being worked thoroughly and effectively—and he entertained not the least doubt that the library they were then met to open would do its work as well as the others. He proposed, before he concluded, to give them a little insight into the character and subjects of those literary treasures which they saw on the shelves around them. The library contained 5,335 volumes, which treated on almost every subject, and would supply every reasonable literary want and taste. The inhabitants of Cheetham would consider that a very fair number to begin with. On Metaphysics and Morals there were 99 volumes, History 470, Biography 521, Political Economy 113, Scientific Miscellanies 48, Mathematics 61, Archi-

tecture and Building 28, Art Miscellanies 19, Painting, Drawing, and Perspective 36, Music 135, Astronomy 20, Chemistry 19, Physical Geography and Geology 47, Natural History Miscellanies 52, Botany 74, Zoology 18, Entomology 23, Literary Miscellanies 295, Poetry and the Drama 292, Fiction 1,395, Periodicals 240. There had also been provided in the room accommodation for the reading of newspapers and periodicals. He anticipated that their expectations with reference to that branch of the Manchester Free Library would be fully realised.

The Mayor said he was gratified to know that Cheetham had not been forgotten in respect to a Free Library. He complimented the inhabitants of that district on the very great boon which they had that evening received at the hands of the Corporation of Manchester, and he hoped it would be duly appreciated. He was glad to find that the volumes on the shelves comprised almost every class of reading. There were books for the lovers of light literature, and books for the students of the most technical and difficult subjects. The Library would, he trusted, prove a great boon in assisting the tradesmen and artisans in their several vocations. His Worship then said—'From this time henceforth I declare this Library to be open to the public.'

Mr. Alderman Bake said he had great pleasure in being present to witness the opening of the Branch Free Library for the township of Cheetham. They had waited for it long, and their representatives had worked hard for it, and now, thanks to the Committee, they had got it at last. As regards the Library itself, he knew the inhabitants would be proud of it, and he had no doubt that before the end of twelve months the Committee would find their grant had not been given in vain.

Mr. William Horsfall, in moving, on behalf of the inhabitants of Cheetham, a vote of thanks to the Free Libraries Committee, observed that one difficulty which had seemed to stand in the way of obtaining a Library for this locality was that the residents were looked upon as being somewhat aristocratic and well-to-do, and therefore could well afford to purchase books for themselves. That, he believed, was a

mistake, as a large proportion of the poorer classes were found among them who could not afford to buy books. The question of a Free Library for Cheetham had been mooted in the Council for years past, and he now desired to express the thanks of the district for its establishment.

The resolution was passed by acclamation.

This library opened with a larger, better, and more carefully selected collection of books than had been placed in any branch previously established. In the selection of the books a two-fold aim had been kept in view; first, a due proportion between the various branches of human learning, so that the student of each division might find something bearing on the subject of his studies. Completeness was out of the question; but the lovers of Mathematics, of Geology, of Natural History, of Music, and so forth would all find something relating to their favourite studies. The second object aimed at was to include as many as possible of the works of the greatest thinkers and poets of all times. In its first full year of working 4,206 borrowers were credited with 64,300 applications for the 7,644 books then on the shelves.

There was no anticipation that the success of this branch would be so overwhelming as it immediately proved. Almost from the day of the opening the accommodation was seen to be extremely inadequate for so populous a district, and two years later communications were addressed to the Earl of Derby, a large owner of land in the neighbourhood, with the view of inducing him to present a plot of land on which a new building for the Library might be placed. His lordship offered to give to the Committee a piece of land at the back of the main road, and not well situated for their purposes. When the Committee selected an eminently suitable piece of land on the main street, and offered to purchase it, Lord Derby

CHEETHAM BRANCH.

CHEETHAM BRANCH READING ROOM.

deducted from the price the estimated value of the land he had previously proposed to give. For the small sum of £700 a splendid site, containing about 700 square yards, was therefore obtained, and on May 11th, 1876, the foundation stone for a new library building was laid by Alderman Thomas Baker. The ceremony was a public one, and amongst those present on the occasion were Alderman Curtis, the Mayor of Manchester, Councillor James Croston, several other members of the Libraries Committee, and a number of representative inhabitants of the ward.

Councillor James Croston handed to Alderman Thomas Baker a silver trowel having engraved upon it Mr. Baker's Coat of Arms, and the following inscription:—'Presented to Mr. Alderman Baker by the Members of the Free Libraries Committee, on occasion of his laying the Corner Stone of the Public Free Library, Township of Cheetham, City of Manchester, May 11th, 1876.' He then said:—Alderman Baker, in the name and on behalf of the Public Libraries Committee of this city, I have the pleasure of presenting to you this trowel wherewith to lay the corner-stone of the Cheetham Branch of the Manchester Public Free Libraries. When some years ago the establishment of a branch library in this township was first suggested, there were those who said that it was unnecessary—that the inhabitants of Cheetham were not those for whose benefit free libraries were intended, for the reason that they were a class of people who could afford to buy the books they wished to read. He believed that no greater mistake could have been made. From a long and intimate acquaintance with the district he might say there was no part of Manchester where such a privilege would be of greater benefit or be more highly appreciated. There were residing in the township a large number of young men who were employed as warehousemen and clerks, and in similar occupations, to whom such an institution would not only afford the opportunity of mental culture, but would be the means of withdrawing them from the frivolous amusements and manifold temptations which in this city beset those who were rising into manhood. The existing library in the

township, he said, had a very modest beginning a few years ago, indeed it was intended rather as an experiment than as a permanent institution, but the large number of persons who had availed themselves of it, and who crowded its small room every evening, showed how much it had been appreciated. For the success generally of free libraries in Manchester, they were indebted to the untiring energy and zeal of their Chairman, Alderman Baker, who had devoted a great amount of time and attention to the supervision of every detail in connection with them, and had long made them the special objects of his attention, and he felt that he would be wanting in fairness if he did not thus publicly acknowledge the services he had rendered. He trusted that that would be a red-letter day in Cheetham, and that the library—the corner-stone of which was about to be laid—would for many generations to come be largely availed of by the inhabitants, and in supplying the means of mental and moral improvement be a blessing to the people of the district.

Alderman Baker, after accepting the trowel, said that the bottle which he had deposited under the foundation stone contained the three Manchester newspapers of that morning—the *Guardian*, the *Examiner and Times*, and the *Courier*—a copy of the last Annual Report of the Free Libraries Committee, and a list of the present Committee, written on parchment, as well as a Memorandum, also on parchment, of the foundation stone being laid by himself on that day, and the names of Messrs. Barker and Ellis as the architects. A few new coins were put in, amounting in value to four shillings and five pence. After declaring the stone to be 'well and truly laid,' Mr. Baker said that was the fourth branch library in the rearing of which he had taken an active part since he had become a member of the Free Libraries Committee, but he did not think that any former branch library had been commenced with so bright a prospect of future prosperity as that one. The success of the Free Library in Cheetham had been unexampled. It was opened on the 29th January, 1872, and during the first twelve months upwards of 65,000 volumes had been lent out for perusal. During the last twelve months the number had increased to 74,000 volumes, while upwards of 155,600

visits had been paid to the newsroom for the purpose of reading either the newspapers and periodicals which lay upon the tables, or books handed from the shelves. He believed that everybody would agree with him in thinking that this was a great business to be conducted in premises little larger than an ordinary retail shop. Soon after the opening of the Library it became evident to the Committee that they would have to erect a building in that district which should be capable of meeting the requirements of the inhabitants, and therefore they set about looking for a piece of land suitable for their purpose. They ultimately selected the spot on which they were then assembled, and opened a communication with Lord Derby, to whom it belonged, with a view to its purchase. His lordship met them in a most generous spirit, and remitted one half of the purchase money, so that the magnificent plot of ground, fronting the main road, the best site they could have chosen if they had had the whole township before them, came into the possession of the Corporation free of chief rent, for the small sum of £700. The Committee had obtained several sets of designs for the new library, and they had selected those of Messrs. Barker and Ellis, who, he believed, would produce a building which would be a great ornament to the township. The inside dimensions of the room would be 92 feet 10 inches by 58 feet 10 inches, giving an area of 606 square yards, of which the counter and library would occupy 113 square yards, and the entrance and reading room 493 square yards. The cost including the land would be about £10,000. He had an especial pleasure in meeting the people of Cheetham that day, for when a poll was taken in 1852 to decide whether the Public Free Libraries Act should or should not be introduced into Manchester, there was not one adverse vote given in that township. Of Sir John Potter, who was the originator of the free library movement in Manchester, he would take that opportunity of observing that, although he did much good in other ways, and presided as Mayor for three years over that great city, he regarded his good works done in that capacity as fugitive when compared with the blessings he was laying up in store for his fellow citizens in the establishment of free libraries. Sir John did not know

at the time that the tree which he was planting would grow to be so mighty a monarch and extend its branches so widely, and he wished he were with them that afternoon to hear the statement he was about to make, which was that 3,000 volumes were now issued every day from these libraries, being nearly 900,000 volumes each year, whilst the number of visits each year to the newsrooms was now upwards of one million and a half. These were mighty results, and the merit due to Sir John Potter, was inestimable, for in these days when working men exercise such great political power in the country, it was of the utmost importance that they should be educated. It was essential to the well being of the community that they should be well informed on all the leading topics of the day. There were large classes of people in this City of Manchester whom Mechanics' Institutions, and Athenæums, and other educational societies did not reach. To these, and others who have not had the advantages of an early education, like the children of our day have, the newsrooms attached to the libraries were open without any introduction, and supplied information on every important movement throughout the kingdom. They were institutions for the millions. Besides the knowledge he gets from the newspapers, the working man may obtain from the libraries books on every imaginable subject with which to occupy his leisure hours. If too weary to pore over treatises on science or history there were at his command some of the best novels that had been written. Objections had sometimes been raised to novels being in the libraries, but he maintained that, in one respect, they were as good as histories, and that the characters in them were as instructive. He need not refer to the characters in the novels of Sir Walter Scott, as they were avowedly historical, but he would give a few instances from one or two of Dickens' Works in which the characters were mostly imaginative. Who, for example, could read about Wilkins Micawber, 'always waiting for something to turn up,' without associating with him the idea of idleness and reckless improvidence? He asked also if guilelessness and unaffected goodness would not be associated with Tom Pinch? And was not Pecksniff the very embodiment of hollow hypocrisy and pompousness? Readers would naturally avoid the exhibition in

themselves of those qualities they condemned in others. Incidentally, too, in these same novels of Dickens, expressions occurred which had become household words. The 'circumlocution office' had impressed upon everybody's mind a tolerably correct idea of what a department of the public service ought not to be, and the few words of Captain Cuttle, 'when found make a note of,' had furnished the motto of one of the most instructive and valuable periodicals of the age. By means of the free libraries men might learn those principles of knowledge and freedom which conduced in the highest degree to the prosperity and advantage of the country. They might be described as active and powerful means of working out the old and corrupt notions which had occupied men's minds. Applying to them the words of Tennyson, they would aid very greatly to

> Ring out the old, ring in the new,
> Ring out the false, ring in the true,
> Ring in the valiant man and free,
> The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
> Ring out the darkness of the land,
> Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Mr. Henry Winterbottom, M.R.C.S., proposed on behalf of the inhabitants of Cheetham, a vote of thanks to Alderman Baker for his kindness in coming amongst them on that occasion, as well as for the workmanlike skill which he had displayed in discharging his duties. He also begged cordially to thank the Corporation of Manchester for the very great boon which they had conferred upon the residents of the ward in establishing the Free Library, the appreciation of which had been daily testified to by the numbers who availed themselves of its advantages. He said the position of Mr. Baker in the Council, as Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, was a most enviable one, and one of which any man might be proud, but it was a position which could not well be occupied except by a person possessing education, culture, refinement, and gentlemanly conduct. He trusted the ceremony of that day was an omen that the success which had hitherto attended the Cheetham Free Library would be increased tenfold, and that from the structure now being raised,

useful knowledge would be disseminated throughout the township.

Mr. Joseph Wood said he had great pleasure in seconding the motion, not that Alderman Baker required their thanks at all, it being manifest to all who took an interest in the removal of ignorance and vice by the diffusion of knowledge that *his heart* was in the work, and his chief reward the great success which had attended the labours of himself and colleagues of the Libraries Committee. As the State had taken means to promote a more general education of children throughout the country, thereby creating a craving for books, it was only reasonable that libraries like this should be multiplied for the supply of wholesome literature, whereby the mental wants of the people might be abundantly met.

The motion was carried with acclamation, and with a brief reply from Mr. Baker the proceedings concluded.

The formal opening of the new building in York Street, Cheetham, provided for the purposes of a Branch Lending Library, took place on Monday, 11th February, 1878. Amongst the gentlemen present at the ceremony were Alderman Worthington, Deputy-Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee (who presided, in the absence, through illness, of the Chairman, Alderman Baker); Aldermen Heywood and Bake; Councillors Batty, Walker, May, Rowley, Ashton, Muirhead, Shaw, Murray, Reade, Bazley, Walton Smith, Moulton, Craven, Spencer, Greenwood, Payne, Hilton, Stewart, Croston, Little, Peel, Birch, Asquith, Booth, Thompson, Griffin, Livesley, Mather, Bright, Schofield, and Brierley; Mr. Malcolm Ross; Mr. Robert Neill; Mr. Alexander Ireland; Mr. Chancellor Christie; Dr. John Watts; the Rev. R. Adams, Rector of St. Thomas's, Red Bank; the Rev. Professor Isaacs, of the Jewish Synagogue; Mr. A. Crestadoro Chief Librarian; Mr. J. H. Nodal, President of the

Manchester Literary Club, and Mr. George Milner, Vice-President; Mr. W. E. A. Axon, and others.

The Chairman (Alderman Thomas Worthington), in opening the proceedings, said:—I am sorry to say our excellent Chairman (Alderman Baker), is prevented by indisposition from being here to-day. In 1872 we opened a Branch Library in this locality, a little lower down the road, and at that time we considered the room we took for the purpose would be quite large enough for many years to come. Little did we expect that in so short a time Cheetham would require so large a building as this. However, such proved to be the fact. It has been our desire in the past, and will be in the future, to make the Libraries as useful as possible, and my desire is that we should do everything we can to wean people from the street corners and the public-houses, by providing them with places like this where they can meet for a useful purpose, and obtain that information which will make them better citizens. It may be interesting to know the number of visits made to the Free Libraries during the past year, which I am happy to say, exceeds two millions. In the face of a fact like that I think no one will doubt that the Committee are doing a useful work in Manchester.

Mr. Joseph Wood moved the following resolution:

> That this meeting of ratepayers of Cheetham Ward desires to acknowledge its high appreciation of the great advantages which will accrue from the establishment of a new Lending Library which has this day been opened, and desires to tender to the Committee and the City Council its cordial thanks for this most valuable institution.

And added, I desire to express to you, Mr. Chairman, and to this meeting, the high appreciation I have of this valuable institution, and as citizens of Cheetham, I think it is the duty of all of us to appreciate such a gift. When I reflect what facilities young men have for mental improvement in these days, as compared with what they had when I was a young man, I begin to think it is a great advantage to be a young man in these days, for here you can come and ask for any book you want out of these priceless treasures, and take it home to peruse

without any fee or payment of any kind. In addition to that privilege you have this splendid temple in which you can come and read the various newspapers and magazines. To have such a building as this in Cheetham is a very great honour to the city which has provided it. When I was in my apprenticeship I paid six shillings a year to a small Mechanics' Institution, whose library did not contain as many books as there are on that one shelf before me. It is very sad to see that the principles of political economy are no better understood than they seem to be by employers and employed, judging from the frequent differences arising between them, and I believe if the working men of Manchester would only use these libraries more those principles would become better understood, and strikes be unknown.

Mr. Henry Winterbottom, in seconding the resolution said: I am proud to find that we possess such a magnificent building as this, so well adapted for the purpose in all its details and I am sure we shall all agree that great credit is due to the architect, the builder, and all concerned. I am pleased to hear that the lending library has been so much appreciated in Cheetham, indeed we have taken a greater interest in the free library movement than any other district in Manchester.

Councillor James Croston (one of the representatives of Cheetham) supported the motion. He said:—I may remind you that this is the last of the branch lending libraries at present in contemplation, but whilst reminding you of that fact, and that the Committee have rendered but tardy justice to this district, I think when you meet in this handsome and spacious room and see the literary treasures which have been gathered together for you, you will agree with me in saying that you have lost nothing by the exercise of your patience. I believe I may congratulate you on having the largest, most handsome, and I may add the most costly lending library in the city. But I am not going to say that that is more than is due to Cheetham. I hope the work will be the beginning of better days in Cheetham, that you will feel your interests have not been neglected, and will show your appreciation of the provision which has been made by making good use of the books and papers. I

know there was a strong objection raised to the opening of a Free Library in Cheetham, on the ground that the people were intelligent, learned, and wealthy, so that they could afford to buy books and papers themselves. I think we showed the objectors that in Cheetham there was a large number of industrious working men and clerks who could not afford to purchase many books, but by whom these books were most likely to be made good use of, and that by the perusal of these books they would obtain that knowledge which would render them more likely to become useful and honourable members of the community. This is a great educational age: what with the building of schools, the establishment of school boards and institutions for teaching the youth of the country, we may hope to see the next generation much better informed than the last, and it becomes the duty of those who occupy places of public trust, to see that the youth after leaving the day schools, to enter upon some kind of occupation, shall have the means of continuing their course of instruction during leisure hours so as to make them better citizens and better Christians. I believe there is no section of the community which might not derive advantage from a perusal of the books this library contains. It would shed light upon the humblest cot, and afford immense advantage to even the occupant of a palace. I know of nothing more advantageous to a working man than that instead of going to the tavern after his day's work, he can come to a library like this, get a book and take it home with him, the perusal of which will make him forget for a time the cares and anxieties produced by his day's toil, and he will rise up the next morning better educated and more enlightened than he was on the previous day. And these advantages are not confined to one section of the community, the possession of power is said to be the possession of truth, and I think it was Pope who said:—

> A little learning is a dangerous thing,
> Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.

I hold that the converse of this is equally true, and that there was much truth in the saying that 'an Englishman ought to know something of everything, and everything of something,' that is to say, he should make himself

master of some particular branch of study, and have a general acquaintance with almost every other branch. And I believe there is not a branch of science or literature which you will not find represented by the books on these shelves. The possession of knowledge is a treasure which neither wealth nor position can purchase, neither can poverty or misfortune deprive you of it. It cheered the heart of Galileo under the oppression of the Inquisition; it was the faithful companion of John Bunyan; it consoled the mind of Dante when a grief-stricken exile; and it lightened the labours of poor Hugh Miller; it shed light upon the blindness of Milton; and placed an evergreen garland around the brow of our own immortal bard, Shakspere. And I believe these branch libraries have been the means of conveying comfort, hope, and consolation to many a labouring man in this city; that they have cheered the heart of many a humble worker whom through their influence, Manchester may some day feel proud to claim as her townsman.

Mr. Malcolm Ross also supported the motion. He said:—I little thought twenty-six years ago, when I was favoured to be present and take part in the opening of the Free Library in Campfield, we should so soon be opening a magnificent building like this as a branch of it, the fifth of such branches too. Mr. Wood has referred to a period when the opportunity of reading books was not so easily obtained. It was so in my own case, for there was only one library open every Saturday night from seven till nine, and such was the desire for reading that myself and some others used to go there at seven o'clock, take a book from the shelves and sit by the fire reading it till nine, and then exchange it for one that was to last for a week. The newspapers were then published only once or twice a week, and the price of them was 7d. each. Here you will be able to see every newspaper published in Manchester, as well as others, every day, free of charge. Having then received so many advantages beyond what we had when we were young, I hope you will show by the use you make of them that you appreciate them, and so profit by them as to show a good example to the generation which has to follow.

The motion was then passed, and the Chairman declared the library open to the public.

Councillor Ashton (one of the representatives of Cheetham Ward) moved a vote of thanks to Alderman Worthington for presiding. He said :—It has often been said that the people of Cheetham Ward could afford to pay for books themselves, but I maintain that though there are many intelligent young men in Cheetham, they are not overburdened with money, and this library will just provide them with what they are anxious to obtain but cannot afford to purchase, and as they are men who will eventually rule, if not in parliament possibly in the municipal council, it is desirable they should have every opportunity of educating themselves for such positions in life.

Mr. Robert Neill (ex-Alderman) seconded the motion. He said :—As an old ratepayer in this township I feel very great interest in our proceedings to-day. We have all watched this building growing up for a rather considerable time, but I had no idea until now that it was so ample, so spacious, and so elegant a building. The Council have been a long time in recognising our claims, but when they have done it, they have done it well. When I look at this room, and consider either its architecture or the way in which the work has been carried out, I must say it reflects great credit on all the parties concerned. I belong to a trade in which there is a technical school for teaching boys, and although the employers pay the school wages it is with considerable difficulty we can get the boys to go. I hope that will not be the case here. Previous speakers have told you how different things are in this respect now from what they were when they were boys. I may say I had the misfortune to be brought up where there was no library at all—and I never had a book to read except my school books until I could work and was able to buy one. Here you will get books which will not only amuse, but instruct you, and make you into men and women who will be a credit to the city. I have some little pride in being a Cheetham ratepayer, for I believe we are the best behaved part of the city. I believe there are fewer of us appear in the police courts, and therefore I hope this library will help you to maintain this good character,

and that you will show by the use you make of the privilege that you appreciate it.

The motion was passed with acclamation, and briefly acknowledged by Mr. Worthington, and the proceedings terminated.

In the Cheetham Branch there is no separation between the library and newsroom. This is not the ideal arrangement, for it is found difficult to carry on the work of the lending department without disturbing the quiet and decorum of the reading room. A boys' room was, subsequent to the opening, formed in the basement, and first used on December 19th, 1883.

THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

From their establishment in 1852 the reference library and chief lending library had continued to be housed in the building in Campfield, and although five branch libraries had been opened from time to time the parent institution not only maintained but steadily increased its popularity. In 1873 the issues from the lending library had increased to 108,342, being about 30,000 more than at the commencement, and those in the reference library had risen to 151,700, being more than twice the number of the first year. The accommodation provided by the building had, however, never been very satisfactory. The lending library was too low, and the ventilation very defective. The reference library was too far from the centre of the town, and was also insufficient in shelving, some of the books having to be stored at the branch libraries. Moreover, the structure, not having been erected with a view to the purpose for which it had been employed, began to give way beneath the weight of books placed against its walls. In 1877 its condition became so alarming that the library was abruptly closed. The books were removed with as much speed as possible, and

were placed in the offices of the old Town Hall in King Street, which had just been rendered vacant by the Corporation taking possession of the New Town Hall in Albert Square.

In April of the same year the Council authorised the occupation of the old Town Hall as a reference library, and by resolution passed on 5th March, 1884, transferred the building and the unoccupied land adjoining it to the Libraries Committee. This action received the approval of the Treasury Commissioners on March 20th. The work of alteration was at once put in hand, was completed in February, 1878, and after the inauguration by public meeting of the new building for the Cheetham branch, which took place on February 11th, the meeting adjourned to the Reference Library for the purpose of opening it also to the public.

Immediately after the conclusion of the ceremony in Cheetham, the Reference Library at the Old Town Hall, King Street, was formally opened by the Mayor, Alderman Grundy. Most of the gentlemen who had been present at the Cheetham Branch Library were there also, as well as the following among others:—Aldermen Lamb, Murray, and Hopkinson; Mr. James Crossley (President of the Chetham Society), Mr. Edwin Waugh, Mr. J. G. Mandley, Mr. Abel Heywood, junr., Mr. H. H. Howorth, Dr. Samelson, Mr. John Leigh (Officer of Health), and the Rev. W. A. O'Conor, B.A.

The Mayor on rising to open the proceedings said:—Our friends, the Free Libraries Committee, seem to have thought their ceremony to-day would not be complete without the presence of the Mayor, therefore, the Mayor has come, as he is everybody's humble servant just now. I am not sure however, that I am in the right place, for to tell you the truth I have been talking water a good many days past and I am not sure whether I shall not

finish with water on the brain. At any rate I am very ill prepared to say anything on the question of libraries which is worthy of being said to the company I find assembled here, or anything worthy of the majestic looking throne upon which it has been thought proper to place me.

In 1877, the Council authorised the temporary occupation of the Old Town Hall as a Reference Library until a suitable and central site could be found. This authority has been exercised by the Committee, who have prepared the building for use by fitting up the first floor with shelving and furniture from the Campfield Library. In furtherance of the plan, they removed the wooden partitions which divided the large room from the Mayor's Parlour and the Council Chamber, and also substituted glass for lead in the three existing domes over those rooms. The joiners' strike, which unfortunately began immediately after the permission of the Council was granted, delayed the commencement of these alterations for at least six months. The cost of the alterations, including painting throughout, has been about £980, with £620 additional for refitting of shelving, heating apparatus, &c. This room looks very grand, and I dare say some of you who feel a deep interest in the library would like to make this its permanent home. Well, of course that is a matter which involves a difference of opinion and some further consideration. You know there have been differences of opinion on this question, and it has been my ill fortune to differ with the Libraries Committee, for which I am sorry, because I never like to differ with a Committee which is doing its work well. But I have thought sometimes there was too little regard paid by this Committee to the duty of keeping within an expenditure which is legally justifiable, and I have felt it my duty to remind them of this now and then. We are lodged here now for a longer or shorter time, and I am sure we all wish that those who use the library should be comfortably housed either here or in a building erected for that purpose. I wish them every happiness and enjoyment in it, and hope they will derive from it all those advantages which are claimed for it. I now beg to declare that from this day the Reference Library is open to the public.

Mr. Chancellor R. C. Christie said: As I am the first person called upon to address the meeting, I shall venture to express, on behalf of the public and the citizens of Manchester, our very warmest thanks to the Corporation and the Committee, for having provided this very admirable accommodation for what I and a great number of other people think is one of the most important departments of the Corporation. I am glad to be able to say that whilst the Manchester Corporation yields to none in the provision for our material wants, such as gas and water, which some Corporations look upon as their sole duty, they have not been unmindful of the necessity of providing for the mental requirements of the community. You have provided a room which is second to none in Europe for a library of this sort. The subject of libraries is one in which I have had some personal experience, having visited every great library in Europe, except those of Russia and I can say that although there are libraries larger than this there are very few which have a room for their accommodation anything like this in extent. I am quite certain I speak the sentiments of a large proportion—I may say the majority—of the citizens when I say we heartily hope the library will be allowed to remain here. I was one of those who ventured to bring before the Corporation the importance of the library being transferred to this building, seeing that there must be a change. Our request was received with that respect which the Corporation always treats any reasonable request made to them by the citizens, and we are glad to find, when it was clearly and impartially put before them, that they admitted the transfer to this building would be a proper course, whether temporarily or not is another question. But if there was a possibility of a doubt at that time as to the suitability of the building, that doubt no longer exists, it is a certainty. I have gone over the rooms and I am satisfied that no building could be better adapted to the purpose, unless you are prepared to spend £50,000 or £60,000 in building another place. The great majority of the public libraries in Europe are placed in buildings which were not intended for them, but I don't think that has been found on the whole to be any disadvantage. Whilst there are special rooms required in a great library, still the great feature to be desired is a large room like this.

It is one of the greatest pleasures to me to walk round a room like this and look at the outside of the books to see what they consist of. When I have visited the great libraries on the Continent I have felt a little ashamed to think that if the people of those places were to come to Manchester we should not have a Reference Library fit to take them to. We shall have no need to feel ashamed of it now. I rejoice to think you have over 50,000 volumes here, and I hope that number will be doubled in a few years' time, for valuable as the library may be it is only small in comparison with what the library of a city like this should be, or what some continental cities have. It is true we have in Manchester another very valuable free library, the Chetham Library, but I should like to see that library and this under one roof. I say this in the presence of a venerable and venerated member of the Chetham Society, Mr. James Crossley, who, I hope, will lend his influence to that object. I don't say that the Chetham Library would be better managed under such an arrangement, but it would be a great convenience to those who use these libraries, as they don't like to be running about from one part of the city to another to consult certain books. In conclusion I desire again to express a very anxious hope that the Reference Library may long continue to occupy this old municipal building, which, I am sure, even those who disagree with us would regret to see turned to any uses which are not municipal or public.

Mr. James Crossley, who was next called upon by the Mayor, said :—I have lived a great part of my life in an atmosphere of libraries and books, and I have seen a great number of extraordinary collections of books, but I have never been more deeply impressed on any occasion than with what I have seen here, or looked round me with such entire satisfaction as I feel in looking at this noble room with its contents. I have long had an acquaintance with this room under a variety of circumstances ; I have seen it as a place of meeting both peaceful and tumultuous ; I have seen it when decorated with the portraits of several of our local luminaries, amongst whom were some surveyors of highways, who seemed on the highway to immortality. But all these are swept away by the relentless hand of time, and I

must say I never saw the room so well clothed, or the walls so admirably furnished; indeed, I look upon it as a singular deliverance that we have got here, for I had begun to feel that if the library had remained in the old building we might have had a disaster which it would not have been pleasant to narrate in the history of libraries. A gentleman rather heavy in his proportions might have felt it possible that his precise weight was just the momentum required to bring down that ill-fated building. That is not the case here, no likelihood of a collapse here; you are as firm as the foundations of Manchester itself. I trust therefore we shall see the library remain long where it is. In fact I don't see how in this room, with all its appliances and adjuncts, much more can be done. It is excellently lighted, the books are in an excellent state of arrangement, and we have a chief librarian who has not his superior in the country, with a staff of experienced and able gentlemen, who, I wish, could just be transferred to the British Museum to show them how to work there as they know how to work here. But in addition to these advantages we have that which no library can be considered complete without—we have an admirable catalogue, which is a monument to the Librarian's credit and honour, which can never be too highly praised. It is a model which I wish to see more extensively followed in the country, and I am glad to hear the second volume of it will shortly be in the hands of the public. With all these advantages, and this excellently adapted room in the very centre of Manchester, I consider the number of readers will in all probability be multiplied in an extraordinary degree. When you consider how much research and quiet study there is in Manchester, and how many people there are who want an opportunity of referring to certain books, I must say that to plant the library in a central situation is the only way to make it permanently useful. And who that is engaged in literary research does not want a library like this? There is my friend Mr. Howorth with his history of the Mongols, of which only one volume has been published; is it possible that that giant labour could have been carried through without the assistance of this library? And when we consider the number of books published from Manchester, we must see there is a

demand for books of reference by editors to a large extent. I believe more has been done for some years past in the illustration of early English poetical literature from Lancashire and Manchester than has been done in the Metropolis itself. For all this research, a Reference Library is most essential, therefore the importance and necessity of a library like this cannot be too much enlarged upon. I hope and trust it will go on extending, so that those departments in it which are not so well filled up as one could wish may in a very short time be placed on the same footing as other departments to which large additions have been made. When I first went to the Metropolis I was taken to a place called the 'Temple of the Muses,' in Finsbury Square, where there was an immense congeries of books but without order, symmetry, classification, or proportion. The extent of the walls covered with books was such that I could not look at them without being immensely struck, but the value of the books was in no way proportionate to the bulk. It is quite different with this Manchester Temple of the Muses, which I trust may long maintain its character for order and arrangement. A library like this is something like the dedication of a church, there would seem to be something immoral almost in altering or transferring it elsewhere. I hope the pilgrims and devotees to this shrine may increase day by day and year by year, with infinite advantage to themselves and to the public, and with credit and honour to the Corporation. I trust also that amongst them there may be many who may think it necessary to bring gifts and offerings to the shrine, offerings which will add considerably to its value, and which may be recorded and chronicled by our friend Mr. Axon in a second volume of that most interesting work, *The Public Libraries of Manchester and Salford.*

Alderman Abel Heywood said: I am glad to have had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Crossley here to-day, as he is the only person here that I recollect seeing in this room twenty-seven years ago, as one of a Committee who had met for the purpose of selecting books which were to form the Reference Library. On that occasion Mr. Crossley rendered great services, indeed the services rendered by him to the public of Manchester cannot be

too highly estimated. He has always felt considerable interest in the Reference Library, and the Corporation are very much indebted to him for many suggestions he has made from time to time. I trust that whenever he has the opportunity of acting upon the hint just thrown out by Chancellor Christie, as to an amalgamation of the Chetham Library with this one, he will throw the weight of his influence in favour of that project, so that we may have a library which, if not equal in size to some of those which have been referred to, may be such as will be an honour to the people of Manchester. I think I am the only member of the Council at present who was on the first Committee for the Free Libraries, therefore I feel some degree of satisfaction at the progress which that movement has made in Manchester. When the first library was established in Manchester it was expected to meet all the wants of the community in that respect; we had no conception then that there was so soon to be so great an extension of cheap literature in the country, much less did we expect that some of the most valuable books would be published at a price which would enable working men to obtain them for themselves, and form a little library of their own. Such, however, has been the case, and some of the best books which adorn the shelves of this library may be found in the homes of working men. I presume the establishment of this library, and others of its kind in various parts of the country, has had a most beneficial effect upon the working men of this country, and that, although the number of readers at this library diminished last year, it is satisfactory to know that such diminution is accounted for by the fears which people had as to the insecurity of the building in which it was housed, and was not due to any waning interest in literary pursuit. If we had had to look for the reason in other directions I feel persuaded we should have found one great cause of it was the extension which has taken place in the sale of literature within the last ten or twelve years. It is a matter for congratulation, then, that the establishment of libraries such as this throughout the country, has created an influence and a desire in the minds of the people which will not be forgotten in the future history of the working men of Manchester.

Dr. John Watts said: Mr. Crossley has told you he

never saw this room better occupied or its walls better clothed, and during the time he was speaking I have observed an amazing improvement in it in one particular. I trust these shelves and books will occupy this room until at any rate a better home is found for them. I can understand the feeling of Mr. Crossley on this subject, from having served with him in the formation of this library. I remember him being sent as a messenger to London along with Mr. Edwards with plenary powers in his pocket, to select books for the library. These books are, many of them, his own children, for whom he has a natural affection, and no doubt he has many of their twins in his own house, indeed it is possible many of them are triplicates, of which the third exists in the Chetham Library—therefore I can well understand the affection with which he looks round this room. Another way in which Mr. Crossley rendered valuable services to this library was in the assistance he gave in the preparation of the first catalogue. That was not a light work, nor was it all plain sailing, for I well remember some very warm discussion on the subject, between the late Bishop of Manchester and a present Canon of the Cathedral. My connection with the origin of this library was not important, although I believe I was the first person consulted by Sir John Potter, and was associated with my friend Mr. Leigh as the Honorary Secretary up to the birth of the library in Campfield. I am glad to be here at the removal of such an increased body of books, and I am glad to hear that we have got to that position that on an average each of them comes down from the shelves four times in the course of a year. One cannot but think that an amazing amount of good must result from this study, and when we remember that seventy or eighty Free Libraries have been set up since the Act was passed, one cannot help feeling that the promoter of that measure was one of the greatest benefactors in this country. When I came to Manchester I came from a rare old city which was without a Public Library, but there was a Mechanics' Institution which had a collection of 1,200 or 1,500 books. It seems to me the work of a librarian is peculiarly interesting and useful; I don't think you can have a man working in a library like this without his feeling in love with some particular department in it,

making that his own, and giving the public the benefit of his experience and observation. We are spreading knowledge here to an amazing extent, and that begets a habit which grows into instinct, so that future generations, from their instinct, learn more rapidly than those which have preceded them, hence we may say man is a progressive animal. In elementary schools we can only give the tools, but here is the place where the tools can be put to work, and where instinct can be developed to benefit posterity. Here we have as it were the brains of a large number of good men, who, though dead, yet speak to those who will consult them. And while the frivolities of life are laid in the grave, that which is essential to posterity remains, and will remain as long as the nation lasts.

The Rev. W. A. O'Conor, B.A., said: It gives me great satisfaction to be here, and I feel greatly honoured in having been invited to take a share in this most important ceremony. We must remember that a Reference Library is not to be judged by the standard of other libraries; it can only be used for very serious and laborious purposes, for anything that is done in the literary way must be done by intense labour. Anything that is worth reading and answers to what Dr. Watts described must have been toiled and laboured upon, therefore we must not expect a numerous body of readers coming here. If we see a few coming we may rest satisfied that good work is going on; angels' visits are few, but they are angels' visits. I trust those who come here will derive knowledge thereby which they will in some way communicate to others who are hungering and thirsting after it, and thus the blessings which such a library confers may spread through the whole nation.

The proceedings then closed with a vote of thanks to the Mayor, proposed by Alderman Murray, and seconded by Councillor Booth.

The Reading-room of the Reference Library is very handsome in appearance, the somewhat inartistic proportion between the length and width being broken and relieved by two rows of fluted columns, and the effect heightened by a lofty central dome from which the space

devoted to readers is lighted. When first opened about one hundred persons could be seated, and the room was frequently, especially in the middle of the day, crowded to excess. The first year's working in the new premises, 1878-9, showed an issue to readers of 173,137 volumes, about 600 per day, and being nearly three times the number issued during any immediately preceding year at Campfield.

The central situation of the Reference Library and its ready accessibility from every point, have been the means of opening up its literary treasures to the greatest number of readers, and the constantly-increasing use of its valuable contents by the public sufficiently justifies and approves the wisdom of the Council in transferring to the Libraries Committee a building placed in the very heart of the city and occupying one of its most desirable sites.

In May, 1882, the accommodation for readers was enlarged to about the extent of one-third, by the addition of a portion of the room previously used for the storage of books. But in 1887 this provision again became inadequate, owing principally to the great and increasing use made of the directories, patents, and newspaper files, and two rooms on the ground floor were formed and devoted specially to those purposes. These were opened on April 21st, and the library now possesses seats for nearly 200 persons. Every improvement in accommodation for the public has, however, been made at the expense of that for the housing of the books, until at length the shelf-space is almost exhausted and there is no possibility of extending it in the building as it now exists.

Much time and thoughtful consideration have been bestowed by the Committee on the subject of the enlargement of the present building, and also on the question of

the erection of a new one, but definite action on either proposal has not as yet been taken.

On July 17th, 1893, during the installation of the electric light, a fire was caused in the central dome of the large reading-room. Considerable damage was done to the roof and decorations, but happily the books received no serious injury by fire or water. Whilst referring to this accident it may be mentioned that after the disastrous fire on January 11th, 1879, which destroyed the Birmingham Free Library, including the unique Shaksperian collection, the Manchester Free Libraries Committee manifested their sympathy with the people of Birmingham by presenting, with the consent of the Council, 278 volumes and 1,600 pamphlets towards the formation of the new library. These were duplicate works, but many of them were rare, or otherwise valuable.

THE DEANSGATE BRANCH.

When in 1877 the original home of the Public Libraries in Campfield, was so unceremoniously closed, the books of the lending department were also removed with those of the Reference Library, and stored in the old Town Hall. There they remained for four years. In the meantime the old building and site were sold to the Markets Committee of the City Council, and an arrangement was made in conjunction with that Committee, to erect on a site fronting Deansgate, a suitable building which should serve for the library, and also as an improvement of the Market entrance. Designs prepared by Mr. Geo. Meek, under the direction of Mr. John Allison, the City Surveyor, were adopted. The elevations are classic in style, carried out in stock bricks, with stone cornices, columns, panels, and other dressings. The ground floor consists of shops, and in the centre of the Deansgate façade is a wide

entrance to the New Market, above which is a curved pediment filled in with figures in high relief representing Commerce, supported by Peace and Industry, flanked by figures representing Trade. To the right of this is the entrance to the library, consisting of a handsome doorway having semi-circular head carried on stone columns with carved caps. This gives admission to an entrance hall, tastefully inlaid with coloured tiles, from which a broad staircase leads to the apartments forming the library and reading rooms. On the walls of the staircase are hung a number of pictures, and above the door leading to the private rooms of the library is placed a marble tablet recording the names of those who constituted the committee at the opening of the institution. The chief room is very lofty, and measures 72 feet in length by 54 feet wide. It is lighted principally from the roof, which is supported by light iron columns, but there are also windows on the side facing Deansgate. These windows have been made double in order to prevent annoyance from the street traffic. This fine apartment, which presents on entrance a most striking appearance, affords ample accommodation for the newsroom and library. The library is in the newsroom, and its work is conducted therein, but some separation has been made by a screen 6 feet 6 inches high and a counter. The screen and book-shelves are of pitch pine, the reading stands and counter of mahogany, and the tables of oak. The floor is laid with indiarubber matting where required. The walls of the newsroom are hung with autotypes and engravings taken from the paintings of some of the most eminent artists, both ancient and modern, and forming a fairly representative collection. Opposite to the newsroom is the boys' reading room, similar in style, but considerably smaller, being 50 feet by 36 feet. It will accommodate

DEANSGATE BRANCH.

DEANSGATE BRANCH READING ROOM.

100 boys, and is provided with a collection of books specially for their use. The total cost of the library, including fittings, was £12,000. The library was opened by a public meeting being held within its walls, on April 5th, 1882, Alderman Thomas Baker, at that time Mayor of Manchester and Chairman of the Libraries Committee, presided.

The Mayor, who was received with loud applause, said: The branch free library we have now met to inaugurate is the successor of one which has an historical celebrity. The lending library at Campfield was the first lending-out library in Manchester. I do not find in the accounts of the proceedings connected with its establishment that it was even then called a branch library, nor do I know that it was at that time regarded as only the first of many future similar lending libraries. Its doors were opened in September, 1852, with 5,300 volumes, and this number went on increasing until it amounted to 18,500 in 1877, when the building in which they were placed gave way, and they had to be removed elsewhere for safe custody. This failure of the building involved the erection of another, and was so far a great loss, but its situation was at a distance from the centre of business, and was consequently somewhat inconvenient of access, while the inherent defects of the structure were so great and so serious that I never regarded its removal as a very grievous calamity. The shelving space in the room in which the lending books were stored was insufficient, and the room itself was low, and being used as a news and reading-room, it could never be sufficiently ventilated though every means were taken to remedy the evil. The committee always felt that they were working under difficulties, and that the numerous complaints which were made in the newspapers and elsewhere were substantially true. When the library was closed the committee entered upon the consideration of a new library, with the advantage of a long and somewhat unpleasant experience. In the first instance, they did not contemplate a building either so large as that in which we are now assembled or in so public a situation, but the Markets Committee of the Corporation having possessed themselves of this plot of land, because

it was contiguous to their market and fronting to one of the main streets of the city, and, as they needed only the ground floor, negotiations were opened with them which terminated in the Free Libraries Committee becoming the owners of the whole of the second floor of this building and all above it. The committee believe that in this structure they have avoided all the evils of the old one. As far as they can judge, they have ample room, most excellent ventilation, and a situation second to none in this great city. The books now upon the shelves are substantially those of the old Campfield Lending Library, except that the old, worn-out ones have been removed, and more than 2,000 volumes of new books have been substituted, making 18,000 volumes to be lent to applicants free of charge. The reading-room will be provided with all the important newspapers of the day and a great number of periodicals. Manchester was the first town in England to make the experiment of a Free Lending Library under the Libraries Act, and it has carried out that experiment to a most successful issue. This good work has been communicated over the length and breadth of the land, and I believe that in a few years there will not be any town of importance in England without its free library. It is admitted now that free libraries are a necessity, that they carry knowledge and its humanising influences to the firesides of the poor, and that they make such a provision for instruction that no honest effort after self-culture need now fail. The Corporation of Manchester are worthy of all praise for their arrangements for the supply of gas and water, for good and cleanly roads, for their efforts to remove nuisances and infectious diseases from our midst, and for their supervision of the general welfare of the city ; but I am disposed to think after all that the Free Libraries, comprising the Reference Library with its 70,000 volumes, and the six branch libraries, are the most noble public institutions which Manchester possesses, and that, great as is the work of the Corporation in other respects, if it be true, as I believe it is, that nine-tenths of the pauperism and crime from which society suffers arise from causes which men may themselves avert, there can be no nobler or higher effort than that of giving the people free access to those fountains of knowledge from which they may learn how

to conduct themselves so, not simply, as to avoid these evils and relieve the community of their consequent expense and disgrace, but so as to bring into use, I would say so as to bring into every day use, those moral and intellectual faculties which are the greatest safeguards against idleness and crime. There is only one other point to which I would refer. The people are every day becoming more and more the depositaries of political power. If this power is to be exercised with judgment they must not only be educated, but have the means of acquainting themselves with what is going on in the Legislature and elsewhere, and of knowing what measures well-informed, enlightened, and experienced men consider to be best calculated to preserve the well-being of the State. These sources of knowledge are offered them in the branch libraries free of cost, and the monthly returns made to the Committee show how greatly the people avail themselves of the information. In the month of March last there were 151,000 visitors to the newsrooms of the several branch libraries in Manchester. These visitors all went there to read the newspapers mainly ; and as the Houses of Parliament were sitting, every day's newspapers would contain some political information, so that it may be presumed that all these readers were educating themselves for the discharge of their political duties. Now that this branch library is opened this number will be greatly increased. I declare this library to be open, and I trust that the means of instruction which it offers may be fully and freely used by all the people of the district in whose midst it is located.

Mr. James Crossley, who was received with applause, said he always regarded his early connections with the free library, before it passed into the hands of the Corporation of Manchester, as one of the most agreeable passages of his life. The gentleman who undoubtedly originated the movement was his excellent friend Sir John Potter, and when he commenced to make the necessary preliminaries he called him to his counsels and said, 'If you will find the books I will find the money.' He need not say that of the two the money was much more difficult to find, and that it did not involve any particular degree of care or attention to do the part that he took in the matter, which was a most pleasant under-

taking. He had the gratification of going up to London with the provisional librarian, Mr. Edwards, to buy the books which constituted the original nucleus of the library, and which were sufficient to induce the Corporation to set to work according to the free library enactments. He well remembered all the episodes connected with it, and he should never forget that meeting at which most inspiriting speeches were made by some of the first literary men of the day. Certainly those speeches were very interesting, some of them very eloquent, and there was one who was even more eloquent by his silence than by anything that he said, and that was William Makepeace Thackeray. He seemed to have some glimpse of what the library would come to, and it actually made him speechless.

Visions of glory, spare my aching sight,

these, he supposed, were before him ; at all events he got up but could not go on, and that, in a great master of the English language, was a rather extraordinary occurrence. He need not refer to the progress of the library after it came into the hands of the Corporation. That was before them, and there were certain points which they must take for granted. He supposed it was an admitted fact which was distinctly proved that free libraries were a necessity, and, therefore, any words to show their utility would be perfectly superfluous. That part of the grand scheme which took in the lending libraries was, of course, one of its most essential points. He remembered a predecessor of the present Mayor whose sympathies were strongly excited in favour of those thirsty souls who passed along the streets of Manchester, and who wanted fountains of living water to quench their thirst. But there was an intellectual thirst which was quite as important, perhaps much more so, than even the physical thirst, and it had been ministered to in a very great measure by the six lending libraries attached to the Manchester Reference Library. When he considered the facilities now afforded, as contrasted with those of former days, the change seemed almost magical, because he remembered what was the state of the case in 1816, when he came to Manchester, and the difficulties that a young man who was omnivorous and desirous of reading laboured under

in getting the books he wanted. When he came to Manchester if he had seen what he now saw, and had the opportunities that were now presented, he should not have envied the son of a king. The change which had taken place since 1816, in regard to free libraries, he looked upon as one of the most extraordinary things that had happened. Of course there was then the Chetham Library, which was a very valuable library for more advanced students, but for the works of the day, unless they had shares in the Portico or one or two other libraries, they had to go to the smaller lending libraries, where the charge was 3d. for duodecimos, and 4d. for octavos, and in a larger degree for larger books. He need not say that every boy was not a Crœsus, and that the threepences multiplied into rather larger sums than were at all agreeable. But now things were completely altered. Young men of the present day had their intellectual food supplied to them in really palatial edifices ; they had everything brought to them ; they had merely to say what they wanted, and they could take a book home, study it, and bring it back again. When he looked round he began to wonder where the young man was whose name was so frequently used in former days, and that was the 'pursuer of knowledge under difficulties.' He failed at the present time to see where the difficulties were. The only difficulties that he knew of were those attached to the collector of books, who in consequence of his family of books being too large could not keep them under any subordination or control ; they were always playing at hide and seek, and when a member of the family was wanted it could not be found. Of course they might have a remedy if every man who was a large collector of books had in his establishment a duplicate Mr. Sutton like his friend the chief librarian at the Reference Library, but Mr. Suttons were rarely to be met with, and he feared the collectors must be left to struggle with their peculiar difficulties without much sympathy from the public. When all those opportunities were afforded it was necessary to consider to whom they were in a great measure due. They were indebted for the successful working of the free libraries to the Corporation of Manchester, and he would say this, that on whatever ground the Corporation might be attacked—and very few Corporations which had large duties to perform

were free from attack—it would never be on the score of their administration of the Free Libraries Act. On that point they were safe and secure, he would say, invulnerable; and he thought it was the unanimous voice of the citizens of Manchester that a great debt of gratitude was due to them for the opportunities they had afforded, and for the mode in which that Act had been worked. He could not conclude his remarks without referring to the catalogue of the Reference Library in King Street, which had now been completed and issued to the public. The value of it ought to be known as extensively as possible. The library contained 70,000 very excellently selected volumes, many of which were of the greatest value, but a library without a printed catalogue was actually worth little or nothing, and unfortunately good printed catalogues were the grand desiderata of the great libraries in this country. He did not hesitate to say that no such catalogue of any English or foreign libraries that he knew of had been issued to the public during the same period as that of the Manchester Reference Library. And when any person looked at the volumes, he would see at once upon the least degree of examination the patient care and the well adapted system with which the books had been catalogued. He looked upon it as a great honour and triumph that Manchester should have produced these three volumes which were so useful, and which made the contents of the library so valuable as they now are.

Councillor James Croston said many of them he dare say might have thought at times that the Libraries Committee were a little indifferent to their interests, and a little dilatory in making proper provision for their wants, but he thought after what had been done they would be of opinion the Corporation acted wisely in not carrying out the first intention of rebuilding on the site of the old structure, but had availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the Markets Committee to give them that commodious and handsome room. There were those who believed it might be a question whether it was wise to place knowledge within the reach of the masses of the community. He rejoiced to think that in this matter great strides had been made. The State

had recognised its responsibilities, and had admitted its obligations to provide education for every child within the realm, and the free library system carried on the work where the school authorities left off. As the Mayor had told them, a large amount of political power was in these days left in the hands of the masses, and there was therefore a still greater reason why they should have the opportunity of being instructed in matters affecting the general weal, and he was glad to think that in the libraries now established in various parts of the city, the means were placed at the very doors of the people by which they might obtain information, instruction, and amusement upon almost every conceivable subject. He looked upon the lending libraries as the feeders of the Reference Library, which he considered an institution which Manchester had probably greater reason to be proud of than any other which it possessed.

He ventured to believe that anything that tended to humanise and civilise the people was a subject that ought not to be beneath the notice of those entrusted with the management of local affairs. He believed that such provision would have a humanising and civilising influence, and as it tended to make men happier, so it would make them better citizens and better subjects. A distinguished philosopher had once told them that he wished the barriers between man and man, between rank and rank, were not so harsh and high and thorny, but that they should be a kind of sunk fence, sufficient to draw the line of demarcation between one and another, and yet such that the smile of gladness and the voice of cheerfulness might pass over and be felt and heard on the other side. And when he visited the libraries and saw men of every rank and station—the professional man and the artisan, the pale-visaged student and the horny-handed son of toil—sitting side by side storing their minds from the wealth of knowledge thus provided, he could not but think the philosopher's hopes were being realised, that they were drawing closer heart to heart, and mind to mind, and lessening those disparities of social rank that were a hindrance to the free communication of thought. The library system was commenced in Manchester, and they were proud of it, and in no city or town in the kingdom had it been carried out with so

much public spirit, energy, and success as in this great workshop of the world. Manchester was now looked up to as the guide and instructor to other parts of the country.

After votes of thanks, the proceedings terminated.

SUNDAY OPENING.

At the meeting of the City Council on July 3rd, 1878, a Memorial was presented by the Mayor from the Manchester and Salford Sunday Society, and the following is a copy thereof.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the City of Manchester.

The Memorial of the Manchester and Salford Sunday Society showeth that your Memorialists appreciate very highly the benefits conferred upon the district by the Municipal Institutions devoted to Science, Art, and Lirerature.

Your Memorialists are of opinion that the time has now come when these advantages might judiciously be extended by opening Reading Rooms, Reference Libraries, and Museums on Sunday afternoons and evenings, under such conditions as may be deemed reasonable.

Your Memorialists would point to the parallel case of the Public Parks, which have for many years been open with infinite advantage and without any of the evils so confidently predicted by the opponents of Sunday opening in that case.

Your Memorialists most respectfully urge upon those who are the trustees of the public, that Libraries, Museums, and Art Galleries can only be regarded as instruments for the promotion of intellectual and moral well-being and as agencies opposed to ignorance and vice ; and that it is therefore of the highest importance that they should be made available on the only day when large sections of the community can benefit by them.

Your Memorialists further urge their strong conviction that the Sunday opening of these Institutions would prove a powerful safe-guard against dissipation caused by enforced idleness and the temptations of the public-

SUNDAY USE OF THE LIBRARIES.

Date	Lending Libraries																								Reading Rooms												Totals.	
	Reference Library		Deansgate		Hulme		Chorlton		Ancoats		Rochdale Road		Cheetham		Newton Heath		Rusholme		Longsight		Gorton		Openshaw		Moston		Harpurhey		Bradford		Hyde Road		Chester Road		Crumpsall			
	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average
1878-9	6975	134			28733	572	38498	740	15540	300	13789	265	22091	425											Not open on Sunday.														125626	2436
1879-80	8039	152	Closed	Closed	30964	584	39941	850	16765	322	17316	326	17814	336											Not open on Sunday.														130839	2570
1880-1	8451	162			27676	532	21268	409	12350	247	18600	358	18951	387																									107296	2095
1881-2	8310	177	7612	346	24410	479	23947	470	11611	228	18557	364	22427	440																									116874	2504
1882-3	9154	176	30387	584	21530	439	23339	449	13286	256	19856	382	25529	491																									143081	2777
1883-4	9719	187	33372	642	22275	428	21537	449	14654	305	22483	432	21781	419																									145821	2862
1884-5	9142	176	33241	665	22535	433	21715	426	17379	334	22655	436	21013	404																									147680	2874
1885-6	9379	177	33418	655	24002	480	21787	411	15588	294	23827	486	20931	427																									148932	2930
1886-7	8673	180	31893	613	26325	506	22717	437	13928	268	27112	521	22421	431													7472	249	3786	126									164327	3331
1887-8	9030	177	33168	650	22164	435	21010	412	14114	277	25994	510	22562	442													13916	273	9387	184	3272	192							174617	2903
1888-9	7692	148	29537	568	22385	439	17788	371	13497	281	23353	449	21853	420													14376	293	10195	204	12999	250							173675	2676
1889-90	7778	149	28642	585	20030	409	18541	357	13375	257	20317	415	20459	418													15224	293	7564	145	13152	253							165082	3281
1890-1	7113	142	31121	598	20769	399	19281	371	12560	242	21088	406	24459	470													15615	300	5684	109	11759	240							169449	3277
1891-2	9342	176	31724	599	20116	380	19082	382	11894	238	22193	419	22534	425	8144	166	1978	104	1093	156							15185	297	6980	136	14001	264							184266	3742
1892-3	9022	177	26936	573	18379	391	18945	371	11316	222	19901	423	19806	388	8680	185	8579	168	9026	177							14674	288	5505	106	11934	234							182703	3703
1893-4	8561	164	27471	528	23509	452	20295	390	11555	222	21865	420	18558	387	10616	204	12659	243	13103	252	4419	245	3957	439			13577	266	5310	102	12444	254	4549	198					212448	4766
1894-5	9919	190	26556	511	23468	451	19014	366	12196	249	22033	423	19010	366	10672	205	12326	237	13425	258	11523	220	13818	266			12314	241	4717	124	12325	237	10779	207					234095	4551
1895-6	10398	200	24358	507	23088	444	18692	359	11471	221	20393	392	17829	343	10176	196	11405	219	13080	252	10743	207	11735	226			12254	236	6228	120	11693	225	10749	207					224292	4354
1896-7	10779	203	34808	657	24572	464	20806	393	12531	236	20147	380	15909	300	10695	202	10667	201	13769	260	11647	224	13141	248			13124	248	7024	133	12625	238	9933	191					242177	4578
1897-8	9431	181	31134	599	24787	476	20488	394	12144	248	23867	459	19280	371	9541	183	11402	219	14223	274	11695	225	12474	239			11341	222	5345	107	12362	238	10644	205	4429	85	2445	87	244587	4725
Totals...	176907	—	495378	—	471717	—	448691	—	267754	—	425346	—	415217	—	68524	—	69016	—	77719	—	50027	—	55125	—	—	—	159072	—	77725	—	128566	—	46654	—	4429	—	2445	—	3437867	—

house and be a valuable auxiliary to the works of the Church, the Chapel, and the Sunday School.

Signed on behalf of the Manchester and Salford Sunday Society.

Henry H. Howorth, Chairman.

Against this proposal forty memorials were presented to the Council emanating from the ratepayers and from various religious bodies, and one in its favour signed by 1,776 persons. The subject was debated somewhat warmly at three successive Council meetings, and on the final division there was a majority of eight only in favour of the opening of the libraries on Sundays. The Committee at once gave effect to the decision of the Council and on Sunday, September 8th, 1878, all the libraries were opened at two o'clock, and remained open until nine o'clock. This arrangement continues unaltered.

Whatever opinion may be held as to the propriety or advantage of opening these institutions on the Sabbath, and weighty arguments may be brought to bear on both sides of the question, it is clear from the accompanying table that the people will make use of the privilege if it be granted unto them. Since the reading-rooms were thrown open they have been visited 3,437,867 times by the public, and the present average is about 4,700 visits each Sunday. The literature used mainly consists of newspapers and periodicals, but few books being asked for except in the Reference Library, and is not therefore of the highest or most valuable class. Still, if by this means some men and women are kept from frequenting places of less healthy resort, that important object—the suppression of evil—which all good folk have at heart will in a measure have been attained.

BOYS' ROOMS.

Another very important extension was made in 1878. The number of boys who assembled in the several reading-

Date	Reference Library		Deansgate		Hulme		Chorlton		Ancoats		Rochdale Road	
	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average
1878-9	6975	134	Closed	Closed	28733	572	38498	740	15540	300	13789	265
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1896-7	10779	203	34808	657	24572	464	20806	393	12531	236	20147	380
1897-8	9431	181	31134	599	24787	476	20488	394	12144	248	23867	459
Totals...	176907	—	495378	—	471717	—	448691	—	267754	—	425346	—

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BOYS' ROOMS.

Another very important extension was made in 1878. The number of boys who assembled in the several reading-

rooms in the evening caused so much inconvenience to grown-up readers as to suggest the desirability of providing separate accommodation specially for them, and a room was accordingly prepared for them at Ancoats, and opened each afternoon at five o'clock, remaining open until nine o'clock This action was a revival of that taken at Campfield in 1862, to meet the like exigency, but which had been for many years discontinued. The room was so largely used that similar rooms have since been provided in each of the branch libraries.

The following table shows the use which has been made of these rooms up to the present time :—

USE OF BOYS' ROOMS SINCE THEIR ESTABLISHMENT.

Date	Number of Rooms Open	Week-days		Sundays	
		Visitors	Daily Average	Visitors	Daily Average
1877-8	1	21424	77	—	—
1878-9	2	76835	256	—	—
1879-80	2	89334	314	—	—
1880-1	3	137080	456	36208	701
1881-2	4	148025	524	42468	888
1882-3	4	162566	552	51815	1013
1883-4	5	218616	822	66329	1430
1884-5	5	238004	785	77555	1507
1885-6	6	269160	968	89193	1798
1886-7	6	259399	874	91405	1758
1887-8	7	293150	1079	100695	2159
1888-9	7	321158	1105	115245	2259
1889-90	8	315647	1112	119758	2422
1890-1	8	293612	992	114524	2224
1891-2	11	325338	1300	121471	2533
1892-3	11	320160	1120	108592	2206
1893-4	14	362301	1507	124063	2927
1894-5	14	374266	1292	135650	2665
1895-6	14	427078	1500	131364	2623
1896-7	14	464261	1608	136736	2645
1897-8	14	472678	1579	138026	2694
Totals ...	—	5590092	—	1801097	—

The Boys' Rooms are each provided with about 500 volumes carefully chosen for their suitability to the class of lads who are likely to use them, and a selection of equally suitable periodicals. During the winter months they are, throughout the whole evening, crowded with lads, busily engaged in assimilating the literature provided for them. There can hardly be a more pleasing and suggestive sight than is presented by any one of these rooms, with its bright lighting, its busy and helpful female attendants, and its crowd of readers eager for amusement or instruction. And the boys themselves are of that age and class which it is most desirable to influence for good. Many of them are children of parents whose poverty draws them perilously near to the borderland of crime, but they are still too young to have crossed that border themselves. It is just such boys as these whom it is essential to detach from vicious companions, and to surround with every possible influence that can tend to moral and social improvement, if they are to be made into useful men and good citizens, and rescued from absorption into the pauper and criminal classes.

THE ENGLISH DIALECT AND OTHER SOCIETIES.

Among the donations to the Reference Library in 1878, were the libraries of two local Societies, the English Dialect Society, and the Manchester Statistical Society. Fifty-five volumes and some pamphlets, many of them rare works, were received from the English Dialect Society, who afterwards printed at their cost a catalogue not only of their own collection, but of the whole of the books on English dialects contained in the Reference Library. A very important addition to the English Dialect Library was made in August, 1887, when Mr. J. R. Wise presented his extensive collection to the English

Dialect Society. Mr. Wise's collection numbered over 150 volumes, besides a number of pamphlets, and many of the works contained annotations principally concerning the Warwickshire dialect in which Mr. Wise was interested. It is worthy of record that the English Dialect Library has been very extensively used by workers on Professor Wright's English Dialect Dictionary. The library of the Manchester Statistical Society consisted of 248 volumes and 101 pamphlets. Special conditions were agreed upon for the transference of these libraries, those made with the English Dialect Society being as follows:

1. All books deposited by the English Dialect Society in the Reference Library shall be kept together and be called 'The English Dialect Collection' the Free Libraries Committee undertaking to keep them in good repair as to binding.

2. The Free Libraries Committee will make a manuscript catalogue of the books, which shall be at all times open to the inspection of readers; such books shall also be included in the Reference Library Catalogue.

3. The public shall have the right of using such books on the same conditions as the other books in the Reference Library.

4. Members of the English Dialect Society shall have the right on presentation of an order from the Secretary or Treasurer of that Society to take out of the library for home perusal, for such time as may be agreed on, any book so deposited by the English Dialect Society, the borrower of such book shall be responsible for its preservation and return.

5. On the dissolution of the English Dialect Society these books shall become the absolute property of the Free Libraries Committee who will keep them together as theretofore, and allow them to be used in all respects as the other books in the library.

A similar agreement was entered into with the Manchester Statistical Society with the addition that the Society should extend its system of exchanges with other statistical societies, and that it should make additions of

books to the library from time to time "due regard being taken to avoid unnecessary duplicates of books already in the Reference Library."

In 1881 the Manchester and Salford Sanitary Association presented its library, numbering about 75 volumes and 50 pamphlets, and the Vegetarian Society, in 1888, followed these examples by sending its collection of works on vegetarianism, hygiene, and temperance to the Reference Library on similar terms to those already detailed. This collection, which then numbered over a hundred volumes and nearly a thousand pamphlets, and has since received frequent additions, includes some of the rarest of the early works on vegetarianism.

THE BAILEY SHORTHAND COLLECTION.

Amongst the most valuable gifts of special collections of books which the library has received were two of those formed by Mr. John Eglington Bailey and sold after his death in 1889. These were his library of works on Shorthand, and the various editions of the writings of Dr. Thomas Fuller he had acquired when writing his *Life* of that worthy. The Shorthand Collection was purchased and presented by Councillor Henry Boddington, of Manchester, and the Fuller collection by Messrs. Taylor, Garnett & Co., the proprietors of the *Manchester Guardian.* The Fuller library comprises copies of nearly every edition of the many works of the author of the *Worthies of England*, besides books by other writers of the name of Fuller, and a selection of portraits and engravings illustrating the life of the famous divine. It also includes a copy of Mr. Bailey's *Life of Fuller*, with many additions, made with a view to a new edition, together with a number of transcripts of interesting documents and other manuscript notes. The following account of the Shorthand

Collection is from the pen of Mr. Ernest Axon, Assistant Librarian in the Reference Library.

The Bailey Shorthand Collection consists of over 700 bound volumes, including almost all the shorthand systems that have been published or used in England, from Bright to the present time. Of Dr. Timothy Bright's *Characterie: An Arte of Shorte, Swifte, and Secrete Writing by Character*, 1588, well-known as the first English shorthand, and so scarce that only one copy, that in the Bodleian Library, is known, Mr. Bailey possessed a transcript. Dr. Bright was a Yorkshireman, and a clergyman and physician. Another clergyman, John Willis, B.D., was author of the *Art of Stenographie*, the twelfth edition of which in the Bailey Collection, is almost unique, no copy being known to Dr. Westby-Gibson when he compiled his exhaustive *Bibliography of Shorthand*. Edmond Willis is represented by the second edition of his *Abbreviation of Writing by Character*. Thomas Shelton's *Tachygraphy*, of which Mr. Bailey had the 1641 edition, was an important work in its day, and after the fashion of the time, the author prefixed to this edition commendatory verses—some of them marked by fulsome adulation—from various of his students. What would be thought if a book of the nineteenth century were to be heralded, as Shelton's *Tachygraphy* was, in the following lines, signed by Nath. Mason, of Gonville and Caius College?—

TO THE AUTHOUR.

Why should I praise thy Art in writing, when
Thy art and praise surmounts the praise of 'men;
For if thy way of writing had been showne
To ages past, *Printing* had ne're beene knowne,
Nor the invention sought or valued; when
The *Presse* can scarcely overrunne thy Pen:
So that what honour's due unto the Quill,
Or glory unto those that have the skill
In faire Orthographie, their titles stand
As pages to attend upon thy hand.

Two of Jeremiah Rich's pretty little volumes, 2½ by 1½ inches, are in the collection, as is also the anonymous

first edition of the *Mercury, or, the Secret and Swift Messenger, showing how a man may, with privacy and speed, communicate his thoughts to a friend at any distance* (1641). This was written by John Wilkins, Cromwell's brother-in-law, who, after the Restoration, became Bishop of Chester, and one of the founders of the Royal Society. The second edition of the *Mercury*, dated 1694, has the author's name. William Mason, a shorthand teacher in London, was author of a system which was much used in the seventeenth and early in the eighteenth centuries. There are here several of his works, including his earliest, *A Pen Pluck'd from an Eagle's Wing* (1672), and *Arts Advancement* (1682). To the latter is prefixed an engraved portrait of the author, and underneath appears the following lines, from the pen of 'S. W.,' which show the rivalry that existed then, as now, between authors of different systems :—

> Let Shelton, Rich, and all the rest go down,
> Bring here your Golden Pen and Laurel Crown,
> Great Mason's nimbler Quill outstrips ye Winde,
> And leaves ye Voyce, almost ye Thoughts behind.
> In vain may Momus snarl; He soares on high,
> Praise he Commands, and Envy does defie.

When we consider that Mason's system was partly hieroglyphic and required an immense amount of memory work to be of any use, this praise certainly seems to border on exaggeration. Peter Annet, a native of Liverpool, is represented by the whole of his shorthand books; and John Byrom, of Manchester, by four copies of his posthumous *Universal English Shorthand* (1767), and by numerous variations and improvements by Molineux, Gawtress, and others. The whole of the different editions of the *Polygraphy* of Aulay Macaulay, the Saint Ann's Square, Manchester, tea dealer, are in the collection, and the other local systems are here in more or less completeness. Amongst them may be mentioned the *Stenography* printed at Poughnill, in 1806, by George Nicholson, previously of Manchester, and remembered as one of the promoters of cheap and well-got-up books, and also as an uncompromising advocate of a non-flesh diet. In the *Rudiments of Shorthand*,

by Thomas Andrews (1744), we have a book that has hitherto escaped record by bibliographers. Another unrecorded and stillborn, but pretentious work is *The World's Jewel; or, the Oxford Book of Shorthand* (1759), by the Rev. Mr. Jonathan Smart, who, unlike his predecessors of the previous century, were content to have their systems puffed by their friends, preferred to do the puffing himself. On his title-page is found the following modest verse :—

> Go forth, my little book, and loudly tell,
> If you've an equal, none can you excel :
> Of this, with justice, truly you may boast,
> All purchase learning, cheaply, at my cost,
> Here's time well spent,—who ever in it looks,
> Aloud proclaims—This is the book of books !

Will it be believed that the 'book of books' contains only 36 duodecimo pages? Gurney, Mavor, Pitman, and all the modern attempts also find a place in the Bailey Collection. Useless systems are sandwiched between systems that have done excellent service even if they are now forgotten by all but those who, like the late collector of this library, find few things so interesting as old books. A portion of Mr. Bailey's shorthand library consisted of manuscripts written in shorthand, amongst which may be named a beautiful manuscript entitled, *A Choice Selection of Prose and Poetry*, and written in shorthand by Peter Robey, at Mr. Birchall's School, Manchester, in 1818 ; letters from Cambridge, by Richard Clowes, brother of the well-remembered rector of St. John's, Manchester ; and several volumes of the works of Dr. Philip Doddridge. Mr. Boddington's gift makes the Manchester Free Library collection of books on shorthand one of the finest in the world.

THE HAZLITT COLLECTION.

The most recent presentation of a special collection of books is that made by Mr. Thomas Read Wilkinson, for many years the manager of the Manchester and Salford Bank. He addressed the following letter to Alderman Harry Rawson, then Chairman of the Libraries Committee.

The Polygon, Ardwick,
September 5th, 1895.

Dear Alderman Rawson,—When the late Alexander Ireland died, and his effects were dispersed, I purchased a collection of books which he highly valued, and which had occupied many years of his life in gathering together. The collection comprises Hazlitt's works, and those of Leigh Hunt, Emerson, Carlyle, and Charles Lamb, numbering about 360 volumes. There are also various manuscripts, including the original manuscript of Mrs. Ireland's *Life of Jane Welsh Carlyle.* I wish to present this collection, with the bookcase which holds it, to my native city, and I venture to express the hope that it may be kept together in the City Library as a memorial of our late dear old friend and citizen Alexander Ireland.

Yours sincerely,
T. R. Wilkinson.

Besides a large quantity of pamphlets, letters, reviews, and other cuttings, and some unpublished material the collection consisted of 86 volumes of the writings of William Hazlitt, 104 of those of J. H. Leigh Hunt, 83 of Thomas Carlyle, 48 of Ralph Waldo Emerson, and 38 of Charles Lamb. Mr. Wilkinson also commissioned the Chief Librarian to purchase at his charge any books or documents not included in the collection and relative to its subjects, which might from time to time be obtainable. In drawing attention to this valuable and unique gift in the Council Alderman Rawson said:

The gift is one of peculiar interest. The books will lend distinction to the collection of the Corporation, and will supply amusement and instruction to generations of readers. The donor is a well-known citizen, himself not unpractised in the art of facile and graceful expression. The collection comprises 360 volumes of the works of a group of writers distinguished for their acumen as critics, their ingenious theories of art and letters, and their profound teachings in philosophy and morals. Their names would always be associated with the history of our literature, which, he believed, for variety, value, and extent, had no equal either in ancient or modern times.

These volumes were collected during a long course of years by their late esteemed friend and citizen Mr. Alex. Ireland, the Editor of the *Manchester Examiner and Times*, who was remarkable alike for culture and urbanity. He had a familiar and extensive knowledge of the writings of Hazlitt and Lamb, of Coleridge, and Carlyle, and of Emerson, and enjoyed the personal friendship of several of them. Special reference was due to the manuscript of the *Life of Jane Welsh Carlyle*, by Mrs. Ireland, whose literary acquirements were of no ordinary kind. I feel sure that the Council will sympathise with the pleasure which this exceedingly valuable addition to the treasures of the library has been received by the Committee, and will unite with them in a cordial acknowledgment of Mr. Wilkinson's generosity.

THE GIPSY COLLECTION.

About this time the Committee purchased a remarkable and rare gathering of books, pamphlets, and manuscripts relative to the gipsies which had been accumulated by Mr. Paul Bataillard, of Paris. The following description of this collection is also the work of Mr. Ernest Axon.

The Bataillard collection contains the principal books relating to the gipsies, but it is especially rich in pamphlets, many of which are now scarce, and practically unobtainable. Nearly all the works in the collection have been annotated by the late owner, a leading student of the gipsy and his lore, and in many cases very elaborate tables of contents have been made, which will, of course, render the collection very useful to the student. To attempt to give a list of all the works in the collection would occupy considerable space, for it contains, perhaps, four or five hundred pieces, ranging from works in several volumes to pamphlets of a few pages, and to short articles taken from magazines, newspapers, and encyclopædias. Of the principal works may be mentioned editions in German, French, and English of Grellmann's *Historischer Versuch über die Zigeuner*, which, though over a hundred years old, remains the only attempt at a full history of the gipsy race. The French edition of Grellmann is interleaved,

and is most elaborately annotated by M. Bataillard. Grellmann may be regarded as the founder of the modern study of gipsy lore. He was not the first writer on the subject, for this collection contains a number of pamphlets of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but he was the first who studied the gipsies scientifically, and he concentrated into his history practically all that was known of them at the time he wrote. Of his successors who have really added to our knowledge of the gipsies, there have been surprisingly few. Among those who have made real advances, M. Bataillard himself takes high rank. The collection includes the whole series of his pamphlets. In the earlier of these he elaborated Pott's theory of the identity of the gipsies with the Indian tribe of Jats, who went to Persia about 420 A.D., and were afterwards dispersed over Asia and Europe. In his later works M. Bataillard saw reason to reject this theory of gipsy origin. His later opinion was that the gipsies had existed in Europe from immemorial times, a conclusion to which he was led by the absence of any record of their passage across the Bosphorus, by their enslaved condition in Wallachia in the fourteenth century, by casual notices of their presence in Europe at a still earlier date, and by their present monopoly of the metallurgical arts in south-eastern Europe. Bataillard's later theory also included the attribution to the gipsies of the spread of a knowledge of bronze among the Neolithic races of Europe.

Of works relating to the gipsies in England and Scotland M. Bataillard had made almost a complete collection, aided not a little, as many inscriptions show, by our townsman Mr. H. T. Crofton, himself one of the leading authorities on the subject. Of English writers, the best known is perhaps George Borrow, whose works, which relate both to the English and Spanish Gipsies, have all the charm of romances. Borrow's last work was called *Romano lavo lil*, a word book of the English Gipsy language. Mr. C. G. Leland has also written a number of works on the gipsies, which from their style appeal not only to students of the gipsies, but to a much larger circle of readers. In the late Dr. Bath Smart and Mr. H. T. Crofton, Manchester can boast of two writers whose works are extremely valuable to gipsiologists. Their *Dialect of the English Gipsies* is the

standard work on the subject. The Scottish Gipsies have not been neglected. They figure in several of Scott's novels, and the Yetholm Gipsies have had quite a number of books devoted to them. Some of the English writers on the gipsies have been interested, not in the ethnology or philology of the gipsies, but in the very difficult problem of converting them to Christianity. The Rev. James Crabb, who appears to have been the first to conceive the possibility of their conversion, wrote the *Gipsies Advocate*, and devoted some years of his life to his thankless task. A society was formed, and some of its publications are in the collection. Though not primarily intended to aid ethnologists this phase of gipsy study produced books which contain incidentally much of value to the student. The late Geo. Smith, of Coalville, was an enthusiast for the moral elevation of the gipsies and his entertaining books are also here. An always interesting if somewhat incoherent writer, Mr. James Simson, edited a so-called *History of the Gipsies*, which is by far the best book on the Scottish Gipsies, and he has written a number of pamphlets to prove that John Bunyan was a gipsy, and that the gipsy element in the British population is much greater than is generally supposed. The curious *Ancient and modern Britons* and *Scottish Gipsies under the Stuarts*, both by Mr. MacRitchie, and the excellent *Journal* of the now unfortunately extinct Gipsy Lore Society should not escape mention. Naturally foreign writers are well represented, Paspati on Turkish, Liebich on the German, Vaillant on the Roumanian, Sundt on the Norwegian, and Ascoli on the Italian gipsies, are all included. The privately printed *Czigány Nyelvtan* by the Archduke Joseph, was presented by the author to M. Bataillard and contains the latter's scholarly notes. A very interesting series of works on the Transylvanian Gipsies by Heinrich von Wlislocki is included. Some scarce articles contributed to various Dutch almanacs fifty years ago, and Dirk's *Der Heidens inde Noodelijke Nederlanden* will be useful for the study of the gipsies in the Netherlands. It may be added that M. Bataillard did not disdain to add to his collection romances and plays in which gipsies figured. The newspaper cuttings are very numerous, and the collection also contains several albums of photographs, both of gipsies and

writers on the gipsies. Besides these there is a small collection of combs, bells, and other articles manufactured by gipsies.

Catalogues of these various special libraries and collections have been prepared and are kept in print.

ANDREA CRESTADORO, THIRD LIBRARIAN.

After a brief illness Mr. Crestadoro, the third Chief Librarian, died on 7th April, 1879. Andrea Crestadoro was born at Genoa in 1808, was educated at the public school there, and afterwards entered the University of Turin where he graduated Ph.D. Soon afterwards he was appointed a Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University, and whilst thus engaged produced some pamphlets on social economy and cognate topics, among them being *Saggio d' instituzioni sulla facoltà della parola* and a treatise on Savings Banks in which he advocated their introduction into Italy. Turning his attention to the study of English he acquired a sound theoretical knowledge of the language and translated into Italian a considerable portion of Bancroft's *History of America* which was published. Visiting England in 1849, he found British institutions so much to his liking that he remained in this country and became a naturalised British subject. Being fond of mechanical experiments and possessing an ingenious mind he busied himself during his early years in this country with a number of inventions. Whilst resident in Salford, in 1852, he obtained letters patent for "Certain Improvements in Impulsoria," and other patents were granted to him in 1862, 1868, and 1873. His "Impulsoria" patent was meant to facilitate and lessen animal labour without superseding it, and the method of obtaining this desirable advantage consisted of the introduction of an animal walking on an endless artificial

ground, and thus transmitting power to the driving wheels —in short, of turning a horse into a turnspit. His favourite study was aerial navigation, and one of the patents he took out was for "Improvements in the means and apparatus for Navigating the Air." A model of a "Metallic Balloon" constructed in accordance with his theories was shown at the aeronautical exhibition at the Crystal Palace, London, in June, 1868, and a description of it was printed.

The failure of his patents led him to undertake bibliographical work, and he became employed by Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. on the compilation of the *British Catalogue* and the *Index to Current Literature.* The latter contained references to all articles of importance in periodicals and in the more valuable newspapers and extended over the years 1859-61. This work led him to frequent the British Museum and he was naturally attracted to the problem then agitating the public mind of the compilation and printing of the catalogue of that institution. In an ingenious treatise on the *Art of making Catalogues* his ideas for the solution of that and other cataloguing difficulties were expounded, and they were afterwards utilised in the compilation of the catalogues of the Manchester Free Libraries. The "index catalogues" which he originated have been found eminently serviceable for displaying the contents of free libraries, and have been largely adopted as models by the municipal libraries of the Kingdom.

Dr. Crestadoro's pamphlet published in Paris in 1861 with the title *Du Pouvoir temporel et de la Souveraineté Pontificale* is a concise treatise on the mechanism of government, and is said to have suggested to Cavour and Menabrea the possibility of a *modus vivendi* between the Papacy and the Kingdom of Italy. Attending the Social

Science Association's Meeting at Cheltenham in 1878, he there read a paper entitled *On the best and fairest mode of raising the Public Revenue* advocating therein the abolition of all indirect taxes, and the raising of the requisite supplies by a single direct contribution which "ought to come out of the use of property, and not directly out of property," though the *brochure* was published both in English and French, the scheme must have been either too original or too revolutionary, for it did not receive the attention or serious consideration which its cleverness and merits deserved. In the same year he was created a Knight of the Crown of Italy, an order founded on the attainment of Italian unity. A work on the management of joint-stock companies was left in manuscript, and has never been printed.

His fifteen years direction of the work of the Manchester Public Libraries were marked by an enlightened liberality and constant and earnest endeavour to extend the usefulness of the institutions. Nearly all the changes introduced into their management at his suggestion were in the direction of the modification or abolition of restrictions. He thoroughly believed that free libraries should be free, and those of Manchester are now less hampered by "rules and regulations" than probably any other. His catalogue of the Reference Library remains a monument of patient industry and bibliographical knowledge. To him succeeded the present Chief Librarian, Mr. Charles William Sutton, who for several years had filled the post of Sub-Librarian.

READING ROOMS.

From 1872, when the Cheetham Branch was opened, to the year 1887, the efforts of the Free Libraries Committee were confined principally to the improvement and

extension of the buildings and privileges already provided. By the opening of the Cheetham Branch the chain of libraries encircling the then city of Manchester was completed, and it was not until 1886, when the out-townships of Bradford and Harpurhey were added, that any necessity was felt for more branches. The means then at the disposal of the Committee were, moreover, entirely absorbed in the maintenance of the institutions already existing. When, therefore, a demand was made upon them for the extension of the Free Library system to the new districts, they found it impossible fully to comply with the request, but to meet the public needs as well as their funds would permit, reading rooms, supplied with newspapers and periodicals and a few hundred books for reading on the premises, were opened in Bradford, Harpurhey, and Hyde Road. To these have since been added other rooms situated in Chester-road and Crescent-road, Crumpsall. The advantage of these reading-rooms lies in their comparative cheapness, the cost of maintaining one of them being about one-fourth that of an ordinary branch. These small and comfortable rooms, in which the best newspapers and periodicals of the day can be read amid clean and cheerful surroundings, possess undoubtedly great attractions for all classes of workers after their day's labour is done. As their original cost and that of maintenance is small, it would seem to be sound policy to extend the system, and plant them wherever the population is thick, the neighbourhood cheerless, and the alternative places of pleasant and useful resort but few.

SIR THOMAS BAKER, KT.

Though deeply interested by, and taking an active part in, the scheme for the creation of a "greater Manchester," Sir Thomas Baker did not live to witness its

effects on the fortunes of the public libraries. He died on the 17th April, 1886, just after the completion of the incorporation of the first batch of out-townships. At the time of his death he had been Chairman of the Libraries Committee for close upon twenty-two years. For upwards of a quarter of a century he had devoted much time and energy to the work of the City Council. He had served on nearly all its more important Committees, and was a member of the Free Libraries, Watch, Art Gallery, and Town Hall Committees when he died.

His voice was a power in the Council Chamber. His speaking was clear, cold, and decisive. There was no rhetorical display, no flowers of speech, but a relentless marshalling of fact and argument, which almost invariably carried conviction. Minutely anxious as to facts, he was exact and exacting in their use. Caustic at times, at times bitter, he did not seem to care whether he made friends or enemies, provided only that his words swayed the majority in favour of the view he advocated.

His character, partly natural, partly formed by his legal training, was strong, imperative, wilful. Yet he was by no means unamenable to reason, and was possessed of a profound sense of justice and right. He would never take a mean advantage, and was ever an honest and straightforward opponent. His mental endowments were above the average, and they had been expanded and strengthened by careful culture. Gifted with wide sympathies, he took interest in many things, from entomology in his early youth, to astronomy and botany in his old age. He was Vice-President of the Council of the Manchester Royal Botanical Gardens from 1876 to his death. He was a lover of books and of reading, though he wrote little, his only works being a brief *Memorials of Oldham's Tenement at Crumpsall*, published

in 1864, in 4to, with illustrations; a *Memoir* of his brother, Dr. Charles Baker, the eminent instructor of the deaf and dumb; and *Memorials of a Dissenting Chapel.* This book was an important contribution to the history of religion in Manchester, the dissenting chapel whose records were preserved therein being the Unitarian Chapel in Cross Street, the earliest home of Presbyterian Nonconformity in the city. Over five hundred volumes of books relating to local history, and accumulated principally for the compilation of the *Memorials of a Dissenting Chapel*, were afterwards presented by him to the Reference Library. His literary tastes lay principally in the direction of genealogy, biography, and topography, and his love of antiquarian lore led him to become a Vice-President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society. He was a Liberal in politics, but never took an active part in political controversy, and strongly deprecated the introduction of party spirit into Municipal Councils.

Thomas Baker was born in Birmingham, on May 16th, 1810, and received his early education at the Grammar School of King Edward VI. His studies were continued at Manchester New College, York, where he remained for five years. It was intended that he should enter the Unitarian Ministry, and for six months he was in charge of a congregation at Sidmouth, but this profession being distasteful to him, he went to Manchester, was there articled to a solicitor, and was admitted a solicitor in 1840. He soon acquired a good practice, and began also to interest himself in public affairs, which led to his election to the City Council in 1860.

Amongst the first Committees upon which he was placed to serve, was that of the Public Free Libraries. This, although apparently a small matter, gave colour to his whole after career. Being himself a cultured man,

knowing well and appreciating keenly the value of education and knowledge, knowing also, from his experience as a Guardian, the misery and degradation of the poor, he saw in these Free Libraries one means of alleviating the misfortunes of thousands of his fellowmen, of cheering them, of raising their mental and moral calibre, and of opening out to them paths which if followed must surely lead to improvement in their worldly condition. This was a field of labour worthy of the best efforts of a worthy man, and Mr. Baker threw himself into it with his usual energy. In 1864, he was elected Chairman of the Committee. Into their work Mr. Baker threw his whole heart, and he was ever ready to adopt any suggestion which would make the Public Libraries more popular or more efficient.

During his many years of office as Chairman of the Committee, he had the satisfaction of seeing the institutions under their charge grow in number and usefulness almost beyond his largest hope. Many important changes in the management of them were introduced by him, or accomplished by his advocacy, such as the opening on Sundays, the provision of Boys' Rooms, the transference of the Old Town Hall to the Committee, and the employment of female assistants. On this latter subject he read a paper, before the meeting of the Library Association, at Manchester, in 1879, of which meeting he was elected President. Here is the paper in abstract.

> The employment of young women as assistants in public libraries is a recent experiment first tried in Manchester, and the result of circumstances which I will endeavour to explain. For nineteen years after the formation of the Manchester Free Libraries, boys and young men only were engaged as assistants. Good wages were paid them and their work was of a lighter and pleasanter kind than that of many other employments. No dissatisfaction was ever expressed with the work, but the

younger boys considered it a grievance to have to remain after ordinary office hours, and the elder ones learned as they advanced in years that they were becoming qualified for better-paid situations. The consequence was that the older and better class of youths obtained other situations with a greater increase of wages than their years warranted, and the frequent vacancies that occurred caused much trouble and inconvenience in the maintenance of that order and efficiency which were essential to the carrying out successfully of the work of the libraries. At that time, 1871, the subject of women's rights, duties, and employment, and particularly her exclusion from certain trades and professions, was engaging the attention of thoughtful people, and I therefore suggested that young women should be tried as assistants in the libraries. The suggestion was assented to, and three young women were engaged. The branch librarians would have preferred the continuance of the old system, but they did not allow that feeling to interfere with the carrying out of the wishes of the Committee, and now I believe there is not one of them who is not in favour of the change. The experiment answered in every way, and it has been to the Committee a subject of great gratification that they have been the means of introducing young women to a new class of labour. At the present time, 1879, they had thirty-one in their service, at wages varying from 10/- to 18/- per week. They are regular in their attendance, attentive to their duties, uniformly courteous to borrowers, and contented with their employment. Changes are few, and if a vacancy does occur there are many applicants for it.

Some of the ladies originally engaged have since been appointed Branch Librarians. Mr. Baker also made a strong effort to obtain for the Reference Library a grant of all books and papers printed at the public expense, addressing to the Members of Parliament for the city (Hugh Birley, Jacob Bright, and Sir Thomas Bazley) the following letter :—

28, Jackson's-row, Manchester,
March 15th, 1871.

Dear Sir,—I beg to forward to you the following copy

of a Resolution, passed by the Manchester Public Free Libraries Committee :—

> Resolved unanimously,—That the Chairman be requested to communicate with the Members for this city, with a view to securing their interest with the Government to obtain for the Reference Library copies of the Proceedings of both Houses of Parliament, of the Publications of the Lords of the Admiralty, and of such other Government Publications as may be of general interest.

The Committee are convinced that the Publications referred to in the Resolution would be so widely read, if they were accessible to the frequenters of the Manchester Reference Library, as fully to justify a compliance with their request by the several authorities with whom the power of presenting them lies. The following is a list of Publications, printed at the public charge, which are wanted in the Manchester Reference Library :

Papers presented to Parliament.
Papers published by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.
Publications of the Board of Trade.
Publications of the Commissioners of Public Works.
Publications of the Geological Survey.
Papers published by the Authority of the Secretary of State for India.
Publications of the Board of Ordnance.
Publications of the Board of Admiralty.
Publications of the Greenwich Hospital.
Works published by the Record Commission.
Works published by the State Paper Commission.
Chronicles of Great Britain, published by authority of the Master of the Rolls.
Publications of the South Kensington Museum.
Publications of the National Gallery.

The papers presented to Parliament have been already applied for, but the Speaker stated his inability to comply with the application, on the ground that it would create a precedent which would entitle any public library to demand a similar donation. This answer may fairly be reconsidered. The papers in question are printed at the expense of the nation, and presumably for its benefit and enlightenment. By being deposited in the Manchester Free Library the wants of the largest

population of the North of England would be supplied, and the object of the publication of the papers most fully insured.

Works published by the Government are at this present time presented to some public and semi-public libraries. Works issued by the Government have also at various times been presented to this library. Among them may be specified certain publications of the Record Commission, all the publications of the Commissioners of Patents, the literary and scientific works issued by the British Museum Trustees, and the Journal of the House of Lords. There would seem, therefore, to be no fixed principle established to warrant the refusal by one department of the public service of what is conceded by another.

An application was made by the Manchester Public Free Libraries for a copy of the *Monumenta Historica Britannica*, and refused, whilst the application of the Salford Free Library for the same work was acceded to. The *Illustrations of the Textile Fabrics of India* was presented to the Salford Free Library and refused to the Manchester Public Free Libraries. The inconsistency of these decisions should be observed. The library whose request was granted is inferior alike in size and usefulness to the one whose request was refused. Again, the application of the Manchester Public Free Libraries for the valuable series of Chronicles published by the authority of the Master of the Rolls was refused, yet a set was afterwards presented to the Chetham Library, Manchester. This library is open only half the number of hours in the year that the Manchester Reference Library is open, and it is visited by about 15 readers daily, while the Manchester Reference Library is frequented by about 300 daily.

The last report of the Manchester Reference Library shows that in the preceding year 73,799 readers attended the Library. These came from all parts of the county of Lancaster, and from the neighbouring counties of Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Cheshire. Such is now the repute of the Manchester Reference Library that it is regarded of equal importance and value to the North of England as the Library of the British Museum is to the Metropolis. As an evidence of the immense boon which the gift to the Library by the Commissioners of Patents

is, the Free Libraries Report shows that last year 192,007 Specifications of Patents were examined. This is not an exceptional number; in the preceding years the references to them were equally numerous.

The funds placed at the disposal of the Committee by the penny rate are necessarily limited; a large part of them is spent in salaries and other current expenses. The publications referred to in the resolution are costly in price, and being printed at the expense of the nation, may be appropriately and justly given to a library which has been established solely for the improvement of the immense population in the midst of which it is located.

A similar letter to this has been sent to each of your colleagues, Sir Thomas Bazley and Mr. Birley, and the Committee trust that you will be able to exert such influence as will induce the authorities to comply with this application, for the benefit of the extensive and important district of which that vast community represented by you in the House of Commons is the centre.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Yours very respectfully,

Thomas Baker, Chairman,

Manchester Public Free Libraries Committee

To Jacob Bright, Esq., M.P.

The Chairman received a reply from Mr. Jacob Bright, acknowledging the receipt of his letter, and stating that he was not sanguine of success, from having on a former occasion endeavoured to obtain these publications and failed. The answer of Sir Thomas Bazley contains the words—"I dare not give you the hope of success, but our best efforts shall not be the cause of defeat." In an interview with Mr. Birley, the Chairman explained fully the requirements of the library, and subsequently sent him a copy of the last Annual Report, directing his attention particularly to that part of it which showed the great attendances of readers for the purpose of consulting the books in the Reference Department.

These efforts were made in the early part of the year, but the Parliamentary Session closed without any further communication from the Members for Manchester. The subject engaged the attention of the Committee, who were unanimously of opinion that all publications of general interest printed by the National Departments out of public moneys ought to be presented gratuitously to the large public free libraries throughout the kingdom, and a resolution was passed—

> That the Chairman be requested to put himself into communication with the Free Library Committees of Birmingham and Liverpool, with a view of inducing them to join in a united action with the Government Officials for the purpose of obtaining for the free libraries the publications printed at the public expense.

This action was taken, but the result was disappointment, and the public are still awaiting the privilege of being permitted to conveniently consult the books which they have paid for, and yet are assumed to have no desire to see.

In 1875, Mr. Baker became an Alderman, and in 1879 the mayoralty was offered to him but declined on account of ill-health. In the following year, the offer being renewed, it was accepted, and his first year of service, 1880-1, as Mayor of Manchester, was entered upon. Perhaps the most interesting and certainly the most characteristic event of the first year of his mayoralty was the banquet he gave in honour of Harrison Ainsworth, the novelist. In honouring Ainsworth as a distinguished Lancashire representative of literature he gave fitting expression to his own love and regard for books and their authors, and emphasized it by bringing together to meet the "Scott of Lancashire" an imposing gathering of local literary men and women. The veteran novelist, who

died in the following year, was much moved by the reception he received, and afterwards dedicated his last work, *Stanley Brereton*, to Mr. Baker. A pleasing memento of the occasion was provided by the Mayor in the form of a small volume containing a portrait of Ainsworth, a memoir, a list of his works, and facsimiles of some of the illustrations to them. A copy of this tasteful little book is preserved in the Reference Library.

The second year of his mayoralty, 1881-2, though full of ordinary business was comparatively uneventful. In replying to the resolution of thanks voted on the termination of his second term of office as Mayor, Mr. Baker said:

> I thank the members of the Council for the approving words of the resolution which has been passed. When I received the appointment of Mayor, I felt that it was the greatest honour which was likely to be conferred on me, and I have, during my period of office, earnestly endeavoured to discharge its duties. These duties have resolved themselves into two classes:—first, those immediately and distinctly appertaining to the office; and secondly, those of an honorary nature, which I might or might not discharge. As regards the first; I have never been absent from a meeting of the Council or of the General Purposes Committee, and I have not been absent from the meeting of any committee of which I was chairman, except when otherwise engaged, on Corporation business. The special matters to which attention has been given, and which are worthy of notice now, are:—(1) The transfer of the Royal Institution to the Corporation; (2) The arrangement for the printing of the Court Leet Records; and (3) the consideration of the question as to the enlargement of the municipal boundaries. As regards the transfer of the Royal Institution to the Corporation, Manchester has long felt the need of an art gallery. Though this need is not yet supplied, I trust that in the course of the next twelve months the internal alterations of the building may be completed, so that the committee may proceed to collect objects of art. I look upon the printing of the Court Leet Records as the first step towards a faithful and complete

history of Manchester. Those seven M.S. volumes contain a full and unvarnished history of the mode of life of our predecessors, and of the then management of our town. The enlargement of the municipal boundaries I regard as a most important matter. Situate as Manchester is, in the midst of several smaller local authorities, with a teeming population, I see a way in which it may become, beyond all debate, and very weighty reasons why it should become, the largest and most important city next to the Metropolis. Any adjoining districts which think of uniting their fortunes with Manchester should, in my opinion, be received on fair, equitable, and generous terms. One of the first advantages would be a participation in an experienced government, which has no other object than that of the common good. Such districts would, I do not doubt, be fostered into greatness, and gradually attain as much municipal excellence as the present city. I do not think there is a town in the kingdom which has done so much within the same period as Manchester has done since its incorporation. It has made gigantic strides towards securing the health of its inhabitants in the matters of water and gas; it has its parks and recreation grounds (of which latter it has fallen to my lot, during my year of office, to dedicate two to the public use); it has widened its streets, made squares, and erected one of the most magnificent town halls in the world; it has given a palatial character to its warehouses; it has fostered education by its free libraries and School Boards; and, lastly, it has secured a temple for the worship of the fine arts. As regards the good works which it has not been obligatory upon the Mayor to engage in, I may simply say that I have considered it my duty, as far as the imperative work of the office of Mayor permitted, to preside, when requested, at meetings connected with benevolent, learned, and scientific objects. I have endeavoured to preserve the dignity and hospitality of the office with which the Council entrusted me, and I believe that I have handed over the chain of office to you, my successor, as bright and untarnished as when it was placed on my shoulders.

During the last of these years of office Mr. Baker had a curious dispute with the gentleman, then acting as High

Sheriff of the County, on precedency. Mr. Baker thought the Mayor should take the precedence of the Sheriff on important official occasions, but the Sheriff could not agree to this proposition. This contention exhibited a characteristic trait of his character. He had a respect amounting almost to reverence for ceremonial and for those courteous observances which are supposed to be due to high dignitaries and to those in authority. Amidst the somewhat rough and democratic heartiness of Manchester society, this seemed quaint and old-fashioned. Yet he undoubtedly understood, appreciated, and to a large extent possessed those things which we call the feelings and instincts of a gentleman. In 1883 the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him by the Queen in person. This distinction so well won and so well deserved, would have been to him a source of much gratification, had it not been for the sorrow which befel him in December of the previous year by the death of his wife. Probably to distract his mind from this bereavement he still continued to take an active part in municipal duties, and the transference of the Royal Institution to the Corporation, the incorporation of the out-townships with the city, and the printing of the Court Leet Records, all received a large share of his attention. This latter work was truly a labour of love, for in it his antiquarian tastes were strongly gratified, and his interest in local history pleasingly revived. He died in his seventy-sixth year, literally in harness, full of years and of honours; and many a generation will pass away before the remembrance of his jealousy for the welfare and the renown of Manchester, and his zeal in her service shall have faded from the minds of men.

Whatever honour posterity may accord to Sir Thomas Baker, the better portion will undoubtedly be given in

recognition of his disinterested labours for the enlightenment of the community whilst acting as Chairman of the Manchester Free Libraries Committee. At a meeting of the Committee, shortly after his death, the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

> That the Public Free Libraries Committee record their profound sense of the loss they have suffered by the decease of Alderman Sir Thomas Baker, their esteemed chairman, who has devoted his best energies to the work of the Committee during a period of twenty-five years, and whose eminent ability, wise guidance, literary culture, and keen interest in the diffusion of knowledge exercised by him unsparingly in the interests of the Manchester Free Libraries have resulted in greatly increasing the importance, usefulness, and extent of those institutions. They desire to convey to the members of his family their earnest sympathy with them in the bereavement they have sustained.

GREATER MANCHESTER.

From 1885 to 1890 Manchester was busily engaged in extending its boundaries. When the second of the Acts obtained for this purpose was passed, eight more of the townships bordering on the city were added to the five which had previously lost their individuality and become absorbed in greater Manchester. Many of these townships, as part of the price of their willingness to efface themselves, asked for and obtained the assurance that free libraries should be established in their districts. The Libraries Committee found, however, that the additional income which they derived from the new rateable areas was insufficient for the purpose of providing the desired institutions. They, therefore, appealed to Parliament, and in 1891, by a clause in a local act, obtained powers to increase the rate leviable from one penny to any sum not exceeding twopence in the pound. Thus armed, the Committee began their second great era of extension.

The following tables show the increase in the number of volumes in the libraries, and the extent to which they were used immediately before the extension of the boundaries of the city:

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH LIBRARY AND READING ROOM IN 1886-7.

Class	Reference Library	Lending Libraries						Reading Rooms		Totals
		Deansgate	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Chorlton	Cheetham	Bradford	Harpur-Hey	
I., II. Theology and Philosophy	6934	1226	887	846	684	1053	961	5	34	12630
III. History, Biography, &c.	21416	5756	4910	4131	3963	4851	3632	126	178	48963
IV. Politics and Commerce	14525	458	388	247	376	458	407	17	10	16886
V. Science and Art	13348	2602	2660	1985	2143	2371	2153	41	75	27378
VI. Literature and Polygraphy	23319	5586	4662	3626	2511	4524	3220	92	80	47620
VII. Prose Fiction	—	4292	5172	4818	4201	4905	4019	216	240	27863
Specifications of Patents	4522	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4522
Embossed Books for the Blind	—	157	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	157
Totals	84064	20077	18679	15653	13878	18162	14392	497	617	186019

ANNUAL ISSUES FROM EACH LIBRARY AND READING ROOM FOR EACH YEAR FROM 1870-71 TO 1886-7.

Year	Reference Library	Lending Libraries						Reading Rooms		Annual Total	Daily average of the Total Issues
		Deansgate	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Chorlton	Cheetham	Bradford	Harpurhey		
19th 1870-1	98297	125962	175776	72913	98725	180146				751819	2523
20th 1871-2	82654	118094	172169	79319	103753	188147	41173			785309	2845
21st 1872-3	95908	115657	161660	88112	130408	199070	63347			855062	2889
22nd 1873-4	81594	108342	172312	86334	111492	189145	69954			819173	2805
23rd 1874-5	67560	94834	167516	86918	99974	180390	68476			765668	2815
24th 1875-6	61213	92579	166785	88665	95477	180494	66129			751342	2513
25th 1876-7	37320	40972	176415	91136	97655	175193	63215			681906	2684
26th 1877-8	63957	closed	195869	112103	97271	190736	75979			735915	2746
27th 1878-9	173137	closed	211995	145277	117743	235137	101790			985079	3281
28th 1879-80	186448	closed	202354	136489	106149	238402	96626			966468	2777
29th 1880-1	203194	closed	260673	125863	107511	173548	100548			971337	2908
30th 1881-2	210195	38284	271052	143113	106196	190383	106630			1065853	3269
31st 1882-3	252648	124377	253430	142745	104687	207782	105919			1191588	3338
32nd 1883-4	278876	143147	279378	150260	106227	193741	168764			1320393	3700
33rd 1884-5	283232	155501	293488	167037	106087	206610	169194			1381149	3847
34th 1885-6	294444	184696	278263	167579	171470	222914	142374			1461740	4150
35th 1886-7	278558	179033	277547	169684	187718	210224	141300	4519	13445	1462028	4107

Commenced February, 1887. Commenced February, 1887.

THE NEWTON HEATH BRANCH.

Newton Heath was the first of the new districts which received their attention. There they undertook the completion of the library which formed part of a handsome building under construction by the Local Board for municipal purposes at the time of incorporation. This library was opened on September 28th, 1891, with 4,828 volumes, a considerable portion of them having been purchased out of the proceeds of a subscription of £240 raised by residents in the neighbourhood.

The Newton Heath Free Library owes its origin to a movement began in April, 1886, when a meeting was held in the Primitive Methodist School, Dean Lane, for the purpose of considering the best means of aiding science-teaching in the township. A committee was then formed to "consider and formulate a scheme for carrying out a proposed Literary and Scientific Institute," and eventually a requisition was presented to the Local Board in favour of the adoption of the Libraries Acts. At the Town's Meeting, which was held on 13th December, 1886, a resolution was passed adopting the Acts, and upon a poll being demanded, the ratepayers confirmed the decision of the meeting. The poll was taken in January, 1887, the number of votes being as follows:—In favour of the Libraries Acts, 1,544; against, 1,185; majority, 359.

The Local Board afterwards resolved to erect a group of Township Buildings, to include Public Baths and a Public Assembly Hall, in addition to a Free Library and a School of Science and Art. Designs for these buildings having been submitted, the Board ultimately selected those of Mr. Lawrence Booth (Messrs. Booth and Chadwick, of Manchester); and Messrs. William Southern and Sons, of Salford, were appointed as builders.

In January, 1891, the representatives of Newton Heath and Miles Platting Wards invited subscriptions from residents of the district, with the object of making the library more complete and extensive than would otherwise have been possible with the funds at the disposal of the Free Libraries Committee. In response to this appeal it is gratifying to record that the following contributions were received :—

	£
Mr. William Vickers - - - -	100
Messrs. W. Holland and Sons - - -	50
Mr. John Marsden - - - - -	10
Councillor Garlick - - - - -	10
In Memory of the late Mr. David Burton -	5
Mr. G. A. Chambers - - - - -	3

The Trustees of the late Mechanics' Institute, Newton Heath (Messrs. Alderman George Evans, W. T. Evans, James Evans, S. L. Chadwick, and J. W. Williamson), gave the sum of £46 10s. 2d.; and Councillor W. T. Rothwell, as treasurer of the Newton Heath Jubilee Fund, handed over £14 9s. as the residue of that fund. Councillors Morgan and Tetlow presented a handsomely-bound set of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*; and some admirably selected books were given by Mr. E. M. Dixon, Mr. John Burton, and Councillor Trevor.

A tablet commemorative of these benefactions, as well as of the opening of the library by the Mayor of Manchester (Alderman Mark), is placed in the library. Another tablet, recording the names of the members of the Local Board under whose auspices the buildings were erected, is fixed on the wall near the entrance to the reading room.

In addition to 4,417 volumes provided for borrowers, there were 299 volumes set apart for boys, in a reading room devoted especially to their use; and in the general reading room there is a bookcase containing 112 volumes of Encyclopædias, Dictionaries, and other books of reference. This room, which is furnished with an ample supply of the most popular magazines and newspapers of the day, is also provided with celestial and terrestrial globes.

The inauguration of this Branch, which took place on the evening of Monday, 28th of September, 1891, was an especially noteworthy event, as it was the first of a series of libraries to be opened in the districts added to the city by the Incorporation Act of 1890, and marked the beginning of a great development of the system, and therefore a much wider diffusion of the educational and recreative benefits of the public libraries.

Prior to the public meeting there assembled in one of the rooms in the library building the Mayor and Mayoress of Manchester, many members of the City Council, and a number of the influential inhabitants of the district. Councillor J. W. Southern, Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, presented the Mayor, on behalf of the Committee, with a gold key, which on one side bore the arms of the City, and on the other the inscription, "Presented to Alderman John Mark, Mayor of Manchester, by the Free Libraries Committee on the opening of the Newton Heath Branch Free Library, 28th September, 1891." The Mayor accepted the key, but said that before making any remarks about it he must give it a trial. The Mayor, accompanied by the guests, then proceeded to the library door, which he unlocked. The public were admitted, and an inspection of the various rooms was made. Having filled up the usual form guaranteeing the return of any book which he might borrow from the

NEWTON HEATH BRANCH LIBRARY.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY

library, the Mayor was supplied with Smiles' *Self Help.* After this an adjournment was made to the public hall, in which a large audience of some 700 persons had assembled. Councillor Southern presided, and there were also on the platform the Mayor and Mrs. Mark, Aldermen B. T. Leech, W. H. Holland, and G. Evans; Councillors Harry Rawson, J. B. Fullerton, Jas. Hoy, W. T. Bax, J. Norris, W. T. Rothwell, Charles Rowley, W. Trevor, D. M'Cabe, T. C. Abbott; Mr. George Milner, Mr. J. H. Reynolds (Secretary of the Technical School), the Rev. E. F. Letts, the Rev. B. Dutton, Messrs. J. Ward, S. L. Chadwick, G. A. Chambers, J. Coleman, W. T. Evans, J. Garlick, Thomas Milnes, J. Neild, A. Nicholson, H. Tetlow, John Williamson, J. W. Williamson, J. P. Wilkinson, C. W. Sutton (Chief Librarian), and W. R. Credland (Sub-Librarian).

The Chairman said they were met for the purpose of declaring open and dedicating to the public use the fine room in which they were then assembled, and also the Free Library which had just been opened by the Mayor, and from which he had just received as a borrower, that very admirable book, *Self Help*, by Mr. Smiles. He supposed it would be like carrying coals to Newcastle for him to describe to the people of Newton Heath, the building in which he then stood, inasmuch as they had seen it growing up before their eyes for some time past, and were acquainted with it as being a very prominent and a very ornamental addition to the architecture of the district. The Baths which form a portion of the pile, had already been opened, and he believed were now in successful working. That room would be an admirable provision for the future. He only wished they had such rooms in all the districts of Manchester. This was one of the most important needs in some parts of the city, so that the inhabitants could meet either to discuss public affairs; or to listen to lectures and instructive addresses. Besides the public room, the baths, and the library, they had established a Boys' Room, which they regarded as an exceedingly important part of their free

library system. In all their large libraries they had got a cheerful, well-lighted, pleasing, attractive room for the boys, provided with books specially adapted and attractive to youth, and it was an exceedingly pleasant thing. It was one of the enjoyments of his life to go round to these Boys' Rooms and see some of these little fellows, many of them coming from homes where there might be no great degree of pleasure or comfort, with an interesting book before them, and among the sordid surroundings of their own lives, deriving pleasure from another though to them ideal imaginative world. He claimed for Manchester that only one city—that of Boston, in the United States—exceeded Manchester in the number of books distributed among the people by the free library system. He dared say it would be news to many of them to know that during last year 1,564,000 volumes were issued from the Central Library of Manchester and the various branches. He claimed that that fact represented an enormous amount of good. They had recently increased the city by the amalgamation of a number of townships, of which Newton Heath was one. In the course of the negotiations which led to this amalgamation certain promises were held out to these districts that some of those municipal conveniences, of which free libraries were one, should be supplied to every district. They did not need to make that promise to Newton Heath, for the public-spirited men of that township had already decided that for themselves. Those buildings did not owe their origin to the Corporation, but to their predecessors in the local government of the district—the Newton Heath Local Board. This was only what they might have expected from what they knew of the district. The Newton Heath Library was the first of the series of branch libraries which were bound to be established in the various districts in consequence of the amalgamation which he had referred to. The Committee would open two others this winter, one at Longsight, and the other at Rusholme; and plans were now in the process of development through which they hoped there would be a still further and considerable extension of their library system. He hoped they would maintain the position they had hitherto held in relation to other free libraries, and to the distribution among the masses of the people of wholesome and healthy literature.

The Mayor, Alderman John Mark, said he regarded the completion of the buildings with very great pleasure indeed. The Committee had paid him a very high compliment in asking him to perform the opening ceremony ; and if there were any regret at all, it might be that their politeness to him had deprived them of a very learned address from another prominent person. He could promise them no such address. He felt on occasions of that kind at a very great disadvantage when attempting to address an audience. However, he had always endeavoured to do his best, and he was sure that they would accept his remarks in the sincerity of purpose in which he desired to address them. It was not necessary for anyone occupying the position he did that evening to make any defence for, or enter into an explanation about, the establishment of free libraries. That was settled by the citizens of Manchester forty years ago, when they were the very first municipality, and he said it with some pride, to sanction a rate being levied for library purposes. Therefore they might very truly say that free libraries in Manchester had long since passed their elementary stage. It might be that some would say that they had been provided at a very considerable expense. Well, for his own part he did not think it was a bad investment. They had been limited by Act of Parliament to a library rate of one penny in the pound, which, in this greater Manchester, would yield something like £10,000 per annum. Lately, however, they had gone to Parliament, and had obtained power to extend the rate, if they could prudently expend it, to twopence in the pound. They might call that a very considerable annual charge upon the rates, but he held that even if they went to the full extent it would still be a good investment. If, by the distribution of this wholesome literature, by improving the education of the people, the result should be to reduce the poor rate, the gaol rate, and the police rate, it would be an admirable investment. Therefore they admired the wisdom of those who went before them and provided institutions for the people such as libraries, museums, art galleries, parks, and baths, the last not entirely free, but yet nearly so. It was quite remarkable how much attention was now being paid to continuous education through evening classes of every kind. He might instance

the valuable work done by the Free Libraries Committee. Not only did they carry on the work of education during school years, but they afforded valuable aids to study beyond those years. Many instances were known of men who owed to the knowledge acquired in the libraries much of their success in life, to say nothing of the great and high delight that reading and study afforded. The importance of none of these things could be overestimated. What did the mass of literature placed at the service of the people, through the instrumentality of the free libraries, mean? It meant that the representatives of the people in the City Council and others who took an interest in education were determined to do their duty in respect to educational matters to those whom they represented by placing in the power of the public the means of obtaining, on the very easiest terms, the best literature which the world has produced. Their representatives had no personal end of their own to serve, and only hoped that the people would avail themselves to the full of their splendid opportunities. It had been said that they could take a horse to the water, but could not make him drink; and so they might bring books to Newton Heath, but they could not make the people use them. It rested entirely with themselves, and having had some experience of improving his own education by means of borrowing useful books, he could commend that course to all young people present. Of course they wanted also healthy, pleasant recreation, but he appealed to them to devote some portion of their time to self-improvement. He appealed to the fathers and mothers present to take an interest in their children's studies and reading.

Councillor Harry Rawson said no duty more acceptable could possibly have been assigned to him than that of recognising in that magnificent assembly the great and handsome services rendered by some of their neighbours. He moved:—

> That the thanks of this meeting are presented to the kind and liberal donors of books and other matters for the use of the neighbourhood of Newton Heath and Miles Platting.

The donors were well known to them. Many of them had served the public in various important capacities.

Whatever other satisfaction the donors might have, they knew they had helped in the inauguration of a great work of enlightenment in this district, and done something towards improving the intellectual, moral, and social level, and the individual recreation of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood through many generations to come.

Mr. George Milner, in seconding the motion, said two classes of persons were visibly rising in general estimation and importance—the librarian and the elementary schoolmaster. In his opinion both these classes should rank as professions, and their members should be thoroughly educated and certificated in relation to their special work. The library ought to bear an important part in the systematic continuation of education. There was no better continuation school then the library. He hoped everything would be done to make the Newton Heath Branch Library an educational institution—not merely a place where people might go to borrow a book casually, as it were by accident, without a purpose and without direction, but a place where they might be guided by those who were competent to give them assistance. He wished to make a suggestion which he had made elsewhere on similar occasions. He thought the library would not fulfil its proper purpose until there were given in connection with it systematic lectures, not on books in general, but upon the books actually in the library—lectures which should tell the people what they ought to read and how to read it. Then, again, what librarians called 'hand lists' should be prepared, so that a student who did not know his way among books might, so to speak, have a hand stretched out to him and be shown how to make the library of real use to his own education. He was satisfied that whatever the elementary schools might do, unless a direct connection could be established between the elementary school and the public library their work would not be half done. Even on its recreative side, reading might be made educational. The novel, no less than the treatise, would be of signal service in the education of the young, if it were only rightly selected and rightly used. Boys and girls in school should not only be taught to read, but to love reading, so that they themselves might continue their education when they left school. He sometimes feared that the great facility now given for acquiring education in school was not conducing

as much as it should do to help forward a real love of learning. He remembered hearing Mr. Ben Brierley (who was a Failsworth lad) once say that when he was a youth he thought they learned better how to climb towards education because they had to make their own ladders. He hoped that although the ladders were now made for them in abundance, the young people would not be unwilling to climb. Schoolmasters and others should try above all things to give those who come under their charge a real enthusiasm and love for knowledge. The real student had never done learning. Over the grave of Green the historian, in the cemetery at Florence, there was this epitaph—and this only—'He died learning.'

Councillor James Hoy, Chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee of the City Council, in supporting the resolution, said that meeting was also the public inauguration of the science and art classes in that neighbourhood. While in Newton Heath they had the latest addition to the libraries, they had at the same time the commencement of science and art teaching and of technical instruction directly in connection with the Corporation. This was not only the first effort in Manchester in that direction, but it was also one of the very first in the kingdom. Not more than half a dozen towns had as yet taken this matter into their own hands, and they in Manchester up to the present time had only supplemented the funds of other institutions. Now they had advanced a step further. They had provided all fittings and apparatus for those rooms, such as desks, drawing materials, laboratory accommodation, and other things. They intended to have a series of domestic economy lectures, including lectures on cookery, dress-making, and in what was called first aid to the injured. They had asked the officers of the Technical School to take in hand the management of these classes and the providing of an efficient staff of teachers. There was a considerable list of lectures in science and art and commercial subjects, as well as the specific classes for women which he had mentioned, and he hoped the inhabitants of Newton Heath would take full advantage of them. This was only part of the scheme for general higher education, because those who attended the schools there might look forward to being participators in a

very considerable number of scholarships that were being established by the Manchester Corporation in the various higher educational institutions of Manchester.

Alderman W. H. Holland, in replying to the vote of thanks, said, on behalf of those who had done some little to make the library more complete, he acknowledged with gratitude the resolution which they had just now been good enough to pass with so much enthusiasm. That was to him a red letter day, and one to which he had looked forward for a very long time. They knew that the scheme for these public buildings was hatched in the old Local Board office. Of course they did not like to refer very much to those old Local Board days, because it was an antiquated kind of government which they had then. He hoped that they had already felt the advantage of the change which had come about in their public life. He ventured to hope that those buildings would exert a very admirable and very blessed influence upon the public life of the neighbourhood.

The Chairman, in bringing the business of the meeting to a close, expressed the hope that if any little defects were found to exist with regard to the library, those finding them would write to him instead of sending anonymous letters to newspapers. He never neglected to take notice and attend to any letter on free library matters which was addressed to him as Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, and he promised them that if there was anything they had to say which was deserving attention they should have it.

THE RUSHOLME BRANCH.

Whilst busy with this undertaking, the Committee had the gratification of receiving from the Trustees of the Longsight Mechanics' Institution and of the Rusholme Public Hall, both situated in newly added districts, offers to transfer their properties to the Corporation for the purpose of conversion into free libraries. Both offers were accepted, and the buildings adapted for their new services. The Rusholme Branch was opened on April 30th, 1892, and the Longsight Branch on July 23rd of the same year.

The Rusholme Public Hall and Library commenced its career in hired rooms in 1850, the building in which the Free Library is now located being opened in 1860. This institution was founded "to afford facilities for the moral and intellectual improvement of the neighbourhood, and to afford accommodation for public gatherings consistent therewith." The cost of erection, fittings, &c., about £2,800, was raised in public subscriptions, supplemented by the proceeds of two bazaars, held respectively in 1860 and 1864.

For more than thirty years a good reading room and library were provided for a small subscription, a boys' day school was successfully carried on, a savings bank was efficiently worked, and a large room was available for concerts, public meetings, and like purposes, at a reasonable rental. Other recreative departments, a gymnasium, bowling alley, and billiard room, were from time to time added, and, becoming attractive features, retained their popularity for many years. Prior to the incorporation of Rusholme with Manchester the Local Board had its offices in the building.

The successive Presidents of the Institution were:— Mr. E. Langworthy, Mr. J. H. Mayson, Mr. W. R. Callender, Mr. P. Goldschmidt, and Mr. J. Parlane; while Archdeacon Anson, one of the founders, officiated continuously as a Vice-President.

A gradual but marked decrease in the number of subscribers made the Directors somewhat anxious about the future of the hall, and after mature consideration they decided to recommend its conversion into a free library and reading room under the Manchester Corporation, hoping that thereby its usefulness would be increased, and that it would prove a great boon to the district. The proposal being favourably received by the Free Libraries

RUSHOLME BRANCH READING ROOM.

Committee, a special meeting of the members was held on September 8th, 1891, and the following resolution was passed :—

> That the Rusholme Public Hall and Library be dissolved on the 29th of September, 1891, and that all necessary steps be taken for the disposal and settlement of the property of the Institution, its claims and liabilities, according to the rules of the said Institution applicable thereto; and, further, that upon the satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of the said Institution, any property whatsoever which shall remain shall be given to the Corporation of Manchester for the general use of the public.

Negotiations for the transfer were at once begun, and in accordance with the terms of the aforesaid resolution, the Institution was closed on September 29th, 1891. Certain structural alterations necessary to adapt the building to the purposes required were completed in April, 1892. The general reading room, lending library, and boys' reading room, all adjoining and communicating, are very conveniently situated on the ground floor, while the large room above is kept for public use as formerly.

The building converted into a Free Library under municipal control was opened on Saturday, April 30th, 1892, by Sir Henry Roscoe, in the presence of a large gathering of the inhabitants of the district. The Mayor of Manchester (Alderman B. T. Leech) presided, and those present included Lady Roscoe, Archdeacon Anson, Professor Ward, Professor Wilkins, Councillor J. W. Southern (Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee), Councillor Harry Rawson (Deputy-Chairman), and Alderman Bowes (Chairman of the Salford Libraries and Parks Committee), Professsor Tout, Professor H. B. Dixon, Alderman Edwin Guthrie, Alderman Hinchliffe, Professor A. Milnes Marshall; the Revs. J. J. Twist, H. Norburn, C. T.

Poynting, and W. H. Finney; Councillors Hoy, Gunson, Norris, and Royle; Messrs. John H. Nodal, W. E. A. Axon, Charles W. Sutton (Chief Librarian), J. Taylor Kay, J. R. Beard, Frank Hampson, J. R. Finlayson, George Esdaile, George Hahlo, W. B. Dewhurst, W. F. Lane, Hugh Rowland, Theodore Neild, J. T. Foard, and James Parlane.

The Mayor, in his opening remarks, said it was not many years since Rusholme became joined to Manchester, and when that contract was ratified there were a few dissentients who thought the union was not one that would be happy for both parties. He thought that now most people would agree that Manchester and Rusholme had pulled together amicably. He was sure that Manchester had done its best for Rusholme, and Manchester, on the other hand, had been met with the greatest kindness and public spirit, not only by Rusholme but by the other out-townships that had been incorporated. In Openshaw they had had presented by the Whitworth Legatees £6,000 and a large piece of land; the inhabitants of Newton Heath had contributed a large sum of money to stock the library that the Corporation had recently completed; in Longsight they had had a handsome institution presented to the city; and now those who had been associated with the Rusholme Public Hall had very generously handed it over to the Corporation free of cost, to be used as a free library. He felt sure the library would prove a great blessing to the inhabitants, and that it would tend, as the other libraries of the city were tending, to diminish crime and improve the education of the people.

Sir Henry Roscoe was received with applause on rising to declare the library open. He said that to his mind one of the most satisfactory proofs of English advance in civilization and refinement was to be found in the establishment by the ratepayers of free libraries, and he must be allowed to congratulate the inhabitants of that populous district, in which he had so happily lived for so long a time, on the acquirement of a municipal free library. But they must not forget that that institution had existed there for a long

time, and that Rusholme was not behindhand in having a library of its own, though not a municipal one. The Rusholme Public Library and reading room was established in the year 1851, and was held in a room over the present coffee tavern in Wilmslow Road. The founders were the Ven. Archdeacon Anson, Mr. W. Entwistle (afterwards M.P.), Mr. Edward Wild, Mr. Thomas Lowe, Mr. S. Royle (now Councillor), and others. Lectures were given monthly, and the place was well used by the working people. The object of the founders was to provide for the residents of Rusholme opportunities for educational and social enjoyment.

We in Manchester, he thought, might be proud of the fact that our Central Free Library was the first to be established in the country after the passing of the Libraries Act of 1850 Surely none of the ratepayers' money was more productive of good than that spent in the establishment and equipment of free libraries. Of this we might be assured when we learn that the number of readers and borrowers in Manchester for the year ending September 5th, 1891, reached the enormous figure of 4,327,038—the largest number of persons using a library in the world, with the single exception of Boston, in the United States—whilst the number of volumes lent for home reading was 702,803, and of these only 13 were missing. Here we had an instance of what co-operation could do. No single individual, except at an enormous cost to himself, could do what we had done at a cost to every ratepayer of a sum which he could scarcely feel, but which put each citizen in possession of a library of which the most wealthy might well be envious.

Of the value of books and reading so much had been said by writers and speakers, both ancient and modern, that to add anything new seemed almost impossible, and yet every day brought something fresh. The usefulness and importance of books and of reading was increasing day by day, and it was for us to find out the best books and how best to make them of use. Still more to-day than of yore was the maxim true that 'of making many books there is no end' (some 50,000 books now appeared annually), and that 'much study is a weariness of the flesh.' What we needed was to know how to choose our books and so to read that the flesh was not wearied, but

the spirit refreshed and invigorated, for just as there were books which were no books, so there was reading which was no reading. To do nothing more than 'dream away one's life in others' speculations,' as Charles Lamb had it, and to lose oneself in other people's thoughts, was little better than day-dreaming and as unprofitable. Only as a reward for accomplished labours and as a release from depressing thoughts ought such reading to be regularly indulged in. For vigorous men and women of all ages and of all ranks reading should have a different aim, and books should chiefly serve as a stimulus to action. For it was by what a man could do in the world, rather than by what he knows, that mankind progressed, and knowledge that could not be transformed into power was nothing less than waste. Let them read, therefore, not only that which interested them, but that which would give them the means of applying their knowledge to some useful end. Read books not merely to give you pleasure for the moment, but to make you a better man, a worthier citizen, a more useful member of society. 'Choose not such books,' it had been well said, 'as think for you, but such as make you think.' Ruskin distinguished between the books of the hour and those of all time. Both contained books good and bad. The good books of the hour gave us the pleasant or useful talk of some person with whom we could not converse. Of the bad we need not speak. A true book, however, did not, like the telephone, merely serve to convey the voice, but served, like a phonograph, to preserve it. The real author had something to say which was new and true, which no one had said, and which he believed no one could say so well as himself. Such a man, Ruskin added, might write a preface as follows:—'This is the best of me; for the rest I ate and drank and slept, loved and hated like another; my life was as the vapour and is not; but this I saw and knew—*this*, if anything of mine is worth your memory.' 'That,' said Ruskin, 'is his *writing*, it is his inscription or scripture—that is a *book*.' He would urge all men and women whose leisure for reading was limited to choose the books of all time. They were of every kind, easy reading and hard, prose and poetry, entertaining and abstruse. The whole secret of reading lay in the one word selection. To help them in this read Carlyle's *Choice of Books*, or Charles F. Richardson or Frederick

Harrison on the same subject. Look over the lists of the best 100 books made by competent authorities, and then write out a list for themselves, and keep to some definite line of reading. But while pursuing the subject to which they decided to devote themselves, let them not forget to read some poetry, the art of uniting pleasure with truth by calling imagination to the help of reason. Here might our lads and lasses drink of the well of English undefiled, for in poetry our people had truly excelled. The cultivation of the imagination, best attained by reading poetry, was, as Mr. Goschen had said, essential to the highest success in politics, in learning, and in the commercial business of life. No one was too dull or too prosaic or too much absorbed in the routine of practical life to be absolved from the care of his imaginative powers, and no one was likely to find that this care would not repay him even in a practical sense. This certainly held good of scientific pursuits, for in these, more perhaps than in any others, intuitive instinct or imagination led to the discovery of truth. It was in this arousing of the imaginative powers that the persistent value of the reading of poetry lay, for

> Though the muse be gone away,
> Though she move not earth to-day,
> Souls, erewhile who caught her word,
> Ah ! still harp on what they heard.

Such lines of reading as he had indicated would, if properly followed out, not only be a constant and abiding source of delight and refreshment, but would be the means of lifting us above those common, base, and injurious amusements, indulgence in which led to certain ruin, and which were the temptation of all large towns.

At the close of his speech, Sir Henry Roscoe filled up the requisite form, and, handing it to a young lady attendant, was served with the first book from the lending department of the library. The title of the book was *Electricity in the Service of Man.*

Councillor Southern, in proposing a vote of thanks to Sir Henry Roscoe, incidentally mentioned that the words quoted from John Ruskin were originally spoken by Ruskin in a lecture delivered in that hall, and afterwards incorporated in *Sesame and Lilies.* For that lecture by Ruskin, and for all the other valuable work

they had done, the citizens owed a debt of gratitude to those who had had the care of that building up to the present time. He stated that the arrangements of the library included a room for boys, and that 459 volumes had been set apart for the use of them. There were at present 4,000 volumes in the library, and it was intended to increase the number to 5,000.

The Venerable Archdeacon Anson seconded the motion, and in doing so, said that when he called upon John Ruskin to arrange about the lecture referred to by Mr. Southern, Ruskin asked him what it was that he was to lecture about, and in reply to the suggestion that he should deal with 'his own subject,' he said, No; he wanted to talk about books and about the value of libraries. On being invited to give a title for his lecture Ruskin said, 'No; you must select the title yourself.' He suggested 'What and how to read,' or something equally prosaic, and Ruskin said that would do, but he afterwards sent his own title, 'King's Treasuries and Queen's Gardens.'

THE LONGSIGHT BRANCH.

It was in 1854 that the establishment of a Literary and Mechanics' Institution for Longsight which was then called a "now populous and rapidly increasing village," was first seriously attempted. A preliminary meeting was held on the 10th August in that year, under the presidency of the Rev. J. P. Pitcairn, and eventually it was resolved, on the 15th December following, to form such an institution. Premises were taken, and the opening tea party was held on Easter Monday, 9th April, 1855, with Mr. Robert Rumney in the chair, and among the speakers was Mr. Harry Rawson. The first President was Mr. Richard Holt, and the Secretary was Mr. Thomas Froggatt, Mr. Rumney being subsequently appointed Chairman of Directors. In a short time the original quarters proved too small, and at the Annual Meeting in January, 1857, a movement was

begun for the provision of a new building. Eighteen months afterwards, on 24th July, 1858, the foundation stone of the present building was laid by Mr. Ivie Mackie, Mayor of Manchester, who also presided at its formal opening on 1st March, 1859. The cost amounted to about £2,000, over £900 of which was raised by a bazaar—the rest coming from public subscriptions.

The Mechanics' Institution was the most important educational agency in the district for many years, embracing, as it did, library, reading room, elementary school, and classes for foreign languages and more advanced subjects, and many excellent series of concerts, lectures, and high-class entertainments were provided during the early part of its history. For some time past, however, owing to the provision of increased facilities elsewhere, the need for the Institution was no longer felt, its use fell off, and ultimately, in December, 1890, the Trustees passed this resolution—

> That, having regard to the recent incorporation of Gorton in the City of Manchester, it is desirable in the interest of the members of the Longsight Mechanics' Institution and of the inhabitants of the district, that the property and effects of the said Institution should be transferred, with its liabilities, to the Manchester Corporation, for the purposes of a Free Library, or for such other public purposes not inconsistent with the original objects of the said Institution.

Negotiations were forthwith opened with the Corporation, and after the Institution had been formally dissolved at a meeting held on 29th May, 1891, the Public Free Libraries Committee entered into possession of the property.

The Longsight Branch Free Library, formerly the Mechanics' Institution, Stockport Road, was opened by Mr. Alexander Ireland, on the afternoon of Saturday,

July 23, 1892, in the presence of a large audience. The Mayor of Manchester (Alderman Bosdin T. Leech) presided, and the ladies and gentlemen on the platform included the Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Ireland, the Misses Ireland, Mr. and Mrs. John Mills, Councillor J. W. Southern (Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee), Councillor Harry Rawson (Deputy-Chairman), Aldermen Dr. Russell, Hugo Shaw, and Abraham Lloyd, Councillors Charles Rowley, Reynolds, S. H. Brooks, Norris, Hoy, and Uttley; the Rev. C. P. Roberts (Rector of St. John's, Longsight), the Rev. H. Norburn (Rector of St. Agnes's, Birch), Messrs. John H. Nodal, Frank Hampson, Thomas Ashbury, C.E., W. H. Flinn, G. H. Swindells, Richard Gill, John Finlayson, Isaac Gleave, F. W. Lean, S. Dewar Lewin, Charles W. Sutton (Chief Librarian), W. R. Credland (Deputy Chief Librarian), and Lawrence Dillon (Superintendent of branches).

The Mayor said the Longsight Mechanics' Institution dated back to 1854, and it had recently been handed over by the trustees to the Manchester Corporation. He was pleased that they had on the platform that afternoon Councillor Harry Rawson, Deputy Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, who rendered service in the establishment of the institution. Mr. Rawson had long laboured, and was still labouring, in the cause of free libraries. There had been a danger of the library going to decay, as had been the case with many large subscription libraries in Manchester, notably the Portico, through the falling away of the original supporters, and the advantage of the transference here was, he believed, in the permanency of the Corporation. The number of books taken over by the Corporation was 2,670, but they now started with 7,495. The decrease of crime, the quickening of intelligence, and the higher tone in amusements in the county of Lancaster, he attributed in great measure to education. But education was a sword which might be used to disadvantage if the people were not taught how to apply it, and he believed that libraries did a great deal in teaching its use. The libraries of the

LONGSIGHT BRANCH LIBRARY.

Manchester Corporation were well looked after. No books were admitted that were not instructive, moral, and of high tone. He congratulated Longsight upon having a free library, and he hoped that the young men and women of the district would make good use of it. They were favoured at the meeting with the presence of their old friend, Mr. Alexander Ireland, and they were glad to see him so vigorous in his eighty-third year. Mr. Ireland, in addition to being a literary man himself, had been the friend of Carlyle, Emerson, Froude, Russell Lowell, and William and Robert Chambers, and in his youth had conversed with Sir Walter Scott, which was something to be very proud of

Mr. Alexander Ireland then delivered his address as follows :—

It is perhaps not altogether inappropriate that the Committee should have asked me to deliver the opening address on this occasion, for I am the last survivor of the original committee which in 1851 originated the Manchester Free Library, the first of its kind in the United Kingdom, its example being followed by Liverpool in 1853, Birmingham in 1860, and by Leeds in 1870. Forty years have since elapsed, and there are now, I rejoice to tell you, 250 free libraries established and in operation throughout the kingdom, containing probably 3½ million volumes. It is strange to think that the only one now living who assisted at the birth of the first free library should this day be taking a prominent part at the christening of the 250th bantling of that prolific mother. Manchester contains, besides the Reference Library, nine lending libraries and reading rooms, and three reading rooms apart from libraries. In Salford there are five libraries. The number of books used last year in the two towns was 1,838,722. We are still far behind the United States in the extension of free libraries. In the State of Massachusetts alone there were a few years ago 175 free town libraries.

Now, try to realise what a benefit it is to a community to have a free library in its midst, to have the privilege of taking to your home, free of any cost whatever, the latest book of travels, or biography, or essays, or fiction, or poetry, or philosophy. To those who feel a desire to

acquire knowledge this is an unmixed blessing. Think of the thousands of young men and women scattered among our towns, earning their honest livelihood by various trades and occupations, some of them of a very monotonous and fatiguing character—young persons, many of them with tastes and aspirations above their humble surroundings, naturally wishing to beguile their hours of leisure in some way that will be pleasant and instructive. Here they have an ever-ready means of access to what will conduce to this end, giving them what they long for and daily look forward to—gradually leading to the formation of improved habits and tastes which will abide through life.

The opening of a free library is an important event in the history of any community. It has been truly said that however excellent a thing a school and college training may be, after all the best and most essential part of every man's education is often that which he gives himself. Now, it is for this kind of self-education that the free library provides the opportunity and the means—assuming always that the inclination exists, and that a certain amount of guidance is available. Whoever facilitates access to books, be he an individual or a corporation of individuals, is a permanent benefactor of his fellow-men. One of the wisest and most clear-sighted of Americans, James Russell Lowell, whom I had the privilege of knowing, has said finer and more pithy things about books and libraries than any modern author, not even excepting such kings in literature as Carlyle, Ruskin, and Emerson, and I have somewhere read that over the entrance to the famous Alexandrian Library, founded 300 years before the Christian era, were inscribed these words—'The nourishment of the soul.' Another authority says—'The medicine of the soul.' Nothing could have been more significant or appropriate than either the one or the other of these inscriptions, and they are applicable to all libraries, whether public or private.

In an address of this kind my hearers might perhaps expect that I should lay down some rules of guidance to readers. I would hesitate to do this, for their selection of books will in most cases be decided by some determining consideration or circumstance, or by the reader's own mental idiosyncrasy. Some minds care most for the positive knowledge afforded by books of

science, some prefer the excitement and stir and novelty met with in books of travel and adventure, others feel strengthened by the examples of endurance and perseverance, the 'plain living and high thinking,' the struggle with difficulties and evil fortunes, and the final brave success, as revealed in the most captivating biographies. Others take pleasure in following earnest inquirers after truth in their examination of creeds and beliefs and traditions; others, again, prefer to follow the stately march of history, or to find their chief mental sustenance in the most notable works of imagination and fiction, whether in prose or verse. After all, one's choice must generally be determined by one's own tastes and desires. The best books, it has been said, for a man are not always those which the wise recommend, but oftener those which meet the peculiar wants, the natural thirst of his mind, and which, therefore, awaken interest and rivet thought. The great, the essential matter is to feel a lively interest in what you read. Wise, sound-headed, practical Samuel Johnson said: 'I would not advise a rigid adherence to a particular line of study. I myself have never persisted in any plan for two days together. A man ought to read just as inclination leads him, for what he reads as a task will do him little good.'

A great deal has been written about desultory reading. If a man reads in the right spirit, and with a relish for what he is reading, that reading may bring more true benefit to him than an apparently deeper and more serious method of study.

Deprecatory remarks are frequently heard regarding the large proportion of volumes of works of imagination and fiction, compared with those of other departments of literature, which is found in many of the free libraries. Now, a man reads either for entertainment or instruction. I would counsel him to mingle both, not allowing entertainment to absorb too great a portion of his leisure hours. But to works of imagination I attach very much importance. 'The function of imaginative literature,' says John Morley, 'is to awaken the sympathies, to quicken the moral sensibilities, and enlarge our moral vision.' The sympathies and imagination of those who are engaged all day long in dull and often wearisome work, and whose surroundings it is not in their power to

vary, are apt to flag and become languid. To persons in this jaded condition of mind nothing is more refreshing, after the day's work, than to spend an hour or two in reading wholesome works of imagination. The mind readily becomes interested in such reading, and is not taxed by it. The humble home or lonely lodging loses its dulness and monotony, and its occupant escapes to and lives amidst livelier scenes. He becomes detached, as it were, from his present surroundings by the beneficent gift of imagination, and for a time inhabits a brighter world than the one he daily lives in. This power of detachment, one of the most blessed capacities of our nature, gradually but surely exercises its refining influence and ministers to our self-dependence.

Before passing from this topic, let me suggest that the supply of works of fiction, while abundant, should exclude third-rate and inferior productions, and everything that is vicious or trashy. Donations of books considered objectionable should be declined as being unsuitable to the objects and aims of free libraries; which are to safeguard and strengthen the young against temptation, by supplying pure, wholesome, and instructive reading.

It would add greatly to the usefulness of free libraries if judicious lists of books in the different departments of literature were drawn up by the librarians, and placed within the reach of readers. I should like to see the introduction of occasional lectures on the choice of books, by competent men, as an adjunct to the free library system.

I should like readers who have a decided taste for literature to devote a few hours occasionally to our old English writers—such as Bacon, Milton, Jeremy Taylor, and Sir Thomas Browne, and their illustrious contemporaries.

Let the reader also become familiar with the best works of their successors—with Addison, Defoe, Gray, Fielding, Sterne, Goldsmith, Johnson, Cowper, Burke, Gibbon, and Robert Burns, and, later on, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Jane Austen, Walter Scott, Lamb, Shelley, Keats, Byron, Hazlitt, and Macaulay. If they prefer the writers nearer our own time, or living authors, they have an abundant choice in Carlyle, Emerson, Lowell, Holmes; in Tennyson, Browning, Ruskin, George Eliot, Hawthorne, Mrs. Gaskell, Charlotte Brontë, Froude,

Matthew Arnold, Lecky, Herbert Spencer, J. S. Mill, Frederick Harrison, and John Morley.

Besides the treasures of thought embodied in the works of these masters of thought, let it be noted how they have maintained the strength and precision, as well as the variety, of the English language—in some instances reaching a vividness and power not previously attained in our literature. It is an education in itself to study and compare these various styles in all their diversities—each attained and perfected by subtle processes of thought and selection, forming the finest outcome of cultivated intellect.

I earnestly hope that this library may be the means of ministering to the moral and intellectual needs of many thoughtful persons who seek in books something higher than amusement or mere passive enjoyment, although I freely admit the claims of both amusement and passive enjoyment, when the bow requires to be relaxed. What I mean by something higher is the inspiration and quickening influence of high aims and noble and worthy purposes. May the best use of this library be to strengthen good resolutions in the young in the direction of manfulness and self-help; may it teach the salutary lesson *how to enjoy a little thankfully and how to endure much bravely*, leading to a habit of mind which has no sympathy with frivolity, irreverence, or debasing views of life. May the use of it implant in the minds of many a love of literature and science which will beautify their daily existence and render it happier and more bearable. May it teach the lesson of patience and hopeful endeavour under difficulties and hindrances. It is not always a disadvantage to have to struggle with these. On the contrary, difficulties often prove to be a beneficent discipline, since they stimulate endeavour and call forth the power to breast and conquer them. If this institution in the course of its existence should be found helpful to some who have passed middle life or arrived at old age, to some to whom ill-health or sorrow has brought weary hours, it will always redound to the credit and honour of its founders that by its aid the monotony of these hours has been lightened or their tediousness beguiled. The greatest of meditative poets, Wordsworth, has said in one of his finest sonnets—

Books, we know,
Are a substantial world, both pure and good,
Round these, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness will grow.

Assuredly an intimate communion with the minds of the wisest and most gifted of our race rarely fails to bring with it not only patience and hope wherewith to meet the inevitable cares and disappointments of life, but also fortitude to bear its worst calamities.

Councillor Southern moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Ireland for his address. He said, as Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee, he wished to refer to those by whose sagacious liberality this building had become the property of the ratepayers of the city. In the changes which occurred from year to year there was a little danger of forgetting persons who had done pioneer work. The meeting had heard from the Mayor something of the history of the Longsight Mechanics' Institution. He was interested, in looking over the minute books, to find that from the early days an endeavour was made to popularise the institution by means of occasional lectures and concerts. A handbill set forth that 'on November 2, 1855, the next lecture of the course will be delivered by Mr. Harry Rawson, the subject being "English song and glee writers."' The free library at Longsight was one of a ring of suburban libraries which the Corporation hoped to secure for the people. The Corporation owed a great deal to the old Newton Heath Local Board for the library which had been provided for that district, and recently one had been opened in Rusholme.

Mr. Ireland then declared the library open, and he asked the librarian to hand him, as the first borrower, 'the greatest book in the world—*Shakspere's Plays*, a book that will live to the end of the world.'

The Longsight Branch soon became so exceedingly successful, being situated in a populous district where the attractions and means of instruction it affords are strongly appreciated, that the accommodation originally provided was, in 1895, considerably increased.

THE CHESTER ROAD READING ROOM.

Still another generous proposal was made to the Corporation about the same time. The Legatees of Sir Joseph Whitworth had undertaken the erection at Openshaw of a range of buildings which should include a public hall, recreation rooms, and a library and reading room. They offered to present to the Corporation land worth £2,200 for the site, and £6,000 towards the cost of the building. Their gifts were gratefully accepted, and the building was completed for a total cost of about £15,000, the cost to the Committee of the library portion being about £4,000.

Simultaneously with the erection of the Openshaw Branch, the committee carried on the building of a branch in the newly-incorporated district of Gorton, and of a reading room in Chester Road. The first of these new institutions completed and opened was the Chester Road Reading Room.

On Saturday afternoon, March 31st, 1894, the new reading room was opened by Councillor Harry Rawson, Deputy-Chairman of the Committee. The building is nearly opposite St. George's Church, Hulme, and consists of two stories, the lower one forming a boys' reading room, and the upper one a general reading room. In connection with these are the usual attendants' rooms, heating chamber, and other accommodation. The general reading room will comfortably accommodate 150 adults, and every convenience has been provided for the comfort of readers. No effort has been spared to make the room as beautiful as possible in the simple way rendered necessary by the sum allowed for its erection. The shelves allotted for maps and books of reference are arranged under a canopy, a feature of the interior specially designed by the architect to soften away

the ugliness caused by a right of light possessed by the adjoining landowner. The fittings and furniture are made of ash, and the wood has been stained and polished an agreeable shade of green. The exterior of the building to Chester Road is faced with Ruabon bricks, with the windows, doors, parapets, &c., in Doulton ware terracotta. The architect, from whose designs and under whose superintendence the building has been erected, was Mr. J. G. Sankey, M.A., of York Street, Manchester.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Alderman Marshall, presided, and amongst those present were the Lady Mayoress, Councillor J. W. Southern (Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee), Councillor Rawson, Mr. Alexander Ireland, Canon Crane, Aldermen Hoy, Crosfield, Gibson, and Lovett Reade, Mr. R. A. Armitage, Mr. J. F. Furness, Councillors J. H. Greenhow, J. Norris, W. T. Rothwell, Dr. Daly, T. C. Abbott, J. E. Phythian, H. Plummer, W. Simpson, the Rev. G. Cranstone, Mr. J. Bingham, Dr. Worswick, Mr. Registrar Smith, and Mr. C. W. Sutton (Chief Librarian).

Mr. Southern, at the commencement of the proceedings, said that that readingroom was the thirteenth branch of the Free Library. It embraced two departments. One was a reading room for adults, supplied with a careful selection of the best newspapers and magazines, and about 350 volumes of books for reference in the room, but not for lending out. There were 21 daily newspapers (without counting duplicates), 35 weekly journals, and 22 monthly magazines. The other department was the boys' reading room, in which between 300 and 400 volumes suitable for juvenile readers were placed at the disposal of such members of the rising generation as cared to come. There were also about a dozen magazines taken in for their use. The general reading room would be open every week day from 8-30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and on Sundays from 2 to 9 p.m. The boys' room would be open from six to nine each evening, including Sunday.

CHESTER ROAD READING ROOM.

The Lord Mayor then said it must be a matter of congratulation to all true and loyal citizens that such privileges were to be afforded by that reading room to the citizens in that district. It was also a matter for congratulation that the Corporation were always disposed and anxious to liberally dispense the powers committed to them by Parliament for the benefit of the citizens generally. Education was one of the great features of the present day, and they all recognised that the more information the citizens possessed, both of outside matters and of matters that more particularly appertained to this great city, the better. The city had been immensely improved in the last generation in every respect, and in no way more than in the matter of education. He believed that the more the citizens knew of the affairs of the city and of the administration of the municipal government of the city the more contented they would be, and the more loyal citizens they would become. Great benefits had been derived from the establishment of the free libraries which now, thanks to the energy of the Committee, existed in every district of the city. The Committee were always ready to conform to the desires of the citizens, and thereby to contribute as far as possible not only to their intellectual welfare, but to their social benefit and comfort. There could be no question that the establishment of free libraries had contributed immensely not only to the education of the people, but to the diminution of those erratic proceedings which used to prevail in the public streets when the young men and women and the boys and girls had nowhere else to resort to in an evening to spend their leisure hours with comfort, with pleasure, and with profit. They went now into the various free libraries and reading rooms, and those who lived in that district would now have an opportunity of enjoying in that beautiful room the privileges to which he had alluded, and which would certainly tend to improve their social and moral condition, and enable them to grow up to be true and loyal citizens.

Mr. Rawson in declaring the room open, said their purpose that afternoon was to dedicate the Chester Road Branch of the Public Free Library to the perpetual use of the ratepayers. They hoped it might prove a centre of intellectual light, a source of ameliorating

influences, moral and social, especially to the neighbourhood in which it was placed. It was the most recent, but happily would be by no means the last, product of the activities of the Free Libraries Committee, and of their earnest desire to extract from the limited resources at their command the utmost available benefit for their fellow-citizens at large. But there was yet ample field of usefulness awaiting the care and cultivation of the Free Libraries Committee. Part of it would shortly be occupied at Gorton, where new premises were nearly completed, and part in Openshaw, where, aided with generous donations of land and money by the Legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth, a spacious building would be opened. The township of Blackley had for some time pressed its claims for the advantages enjoyed by other districts. Again, the Reference Library urgently demanded additional accommodation. Its capacity was stretched to the uttermost, and many hundreds of its 100,000 volumes were hidden away in remote and unsuitable places. Behind it was a plot of land, the property of the Committee, which had been vacant for many years, an eyesore and an offence in one of the greatest and most central of our thoroughfares. It ought immediately to be utilised, and plans had long been under consideration. But this crying need and the other requirements he had mentioned could not at present be met from the lack of adequate pecuniary means. He thought it a reasonable ambition to place a news and reading room at any rate in every ward of the city—save in the few which were mainly occupied by business premises, and had therefore but a sparse residential population. To him it had ever been an insoluble mystery that the Free Libraries Committee should be singled out for restrictions on its income from which every other department of Corporation activity was exempt. He could not but regard it as the product of a prejudice that was unworthy, and of a distrust which experience had demonstrated to be undeserved. The educational value of their work, and the careful, exemplary, and most laudable manner in which the books were used by the people, demanded a grateful appreciation. Did they not deserve an extension of facilities who, as in the case of their own fellow-citizens, returned from their homes undamaged and safe more than three-

REFERENCE LIBRARY.

REFERENCE LIBRARY READING ROOM.

quarters of a million volumes per annum? And surely it was obvious that the different School Boards would every year create a fresh harvest of borrowers, especially if they would refrain from scattering the attention of their pupils over too wide a curriculum, and would give them such a mastery over the elements of learning as would render reading easy and delightful. This argument for increased resources might be extended with equal propriety to the probable results of technical and of continuation schools. All would tend to multiply the duties and enlarge the responsibilities of Free Library Committees in Manchester and elsewhere, as would also every thousand of increase in the population. Why, then, should pecuniary fetters be allowed longer to restrict and starve the development of institutions which had already done so much, and were admittedly capable of a yet larger extension, in the diffusion of knowledge and the promotion of culture and refinement. The principle he contended for was that Library Committees should be treated with the same confidence as to the economical expenditure of their means as was accorded to every other committee of the Corporation. 'I conclude,' he said, 'with the expression of an earnest hope for a long career of usefulness and success to the Chester Road Public Reading Room, which I have now the pleasure to declare open.'

Canon Crane, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Rawson, said he thought that was one of the brightest days he had seen for the last twenty-three years. When he first came to that parish he found that there was nothing whatever to amuse or to engage the attention of the people of the parish. If the people of such parishes as St. George's were compelled by the force of circumstances to reside in houses that he called kennels, and into which he would not put a dog that he loved, it was absolutely imperative that they should have some place where they could be free from an atmosphere which was enough to poison any moral or social feeling. He therefore congratulated the people of that parish and that part of Hulme on the acquisition, by the liberality, the thought, and the care of the Free Libraries Committee, of that room. No one would be able to pass along Chester Road now without seeing the strong contrast

between the *façade* of that beautiful building and some of the hovels which were still to be seen on the front of the road, and he only prayed that a time would come when those houses also would be improved out of the way.

Mr. T. Parkinson seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

THE GORTON BRANCH.

The next building ready for dedication to the public service was the Gorton Branch. In the presence of a large number of interested spectators, the new library was opened on Saturday afternoon, May 5th, 1894, by Dr. A. W. Ward, the distinguished Principal of Owens College. The new building is situated at the junction of Gorton Lane and Belle Vue Street, West Gorton. The shape of the site suggested an octagonal plan for a portion of the building, and this has been adopted, the section at the union of the two streets being an octagon measuring 29ft. 6in. in diameter, communicating by wide arched openings with two wings, each 21ft. wide, facing the streets, the portion between them forming an open area for light. The ground floor is kept up 6ft. above the street level in order to give good light to the basement floor, in which is a boys' reading room, book store, and heating apparatus. The entrance to the building is in Belle Vue Street, and a wide staircase leads up to the first floor and down to the basement, the staircase hall having an octagonal end, with large windows lighted from the area. To the left of the entrance on the ground floor is the library, which, with the rooms for the attendants, occupies the whole of that story. The library is fitted with bookcases, counter for borrowers, catalogue desk, &c., all constructed of pitch pine, stained and varnished. It is well lighted with large windows on all sides.

The first floor is entirely occupied by the reading room, and is fitted up with newspaper racks and reading tables, and a small bookcase for reference books. It is a lofty room, ceiled half way up to the roof, and lighted by windows on all sides, skylights over the wings, and a lantern light over the octagon. Special attention has been given to the artificial lighting and ventilation throughout. A number of ventilation flues have been carried up in the walls, and into these are passed the tubes from the ventilating sunlights. For the inlet of fresh air, hopper casements are fixed in many parts of the building. The warming of the building is accomplished with hot water in pipes and radiators. The elevations are faced with grey bricks, with red terra cotta in windows, door, cornice, and string courses. A feature has been made of the octagonal, which is covered by a nipped roof, and this is crowned by a square clock turret, the total height from street level to top of the iron vane being about 81ft. The clock, which has four illuminated dials, each 4ft. 6in. diameter, is a prominent feature in the neighbourhood. The cost of the building and fittings has been about £4,100, and the whole of the work has been carried out from the designs and under the superintendence of Messrs. J. W. and R. F. Beaumont, architects, Manchester. The library is furnished with 4,616 volumes, and, though they do not form a large collection, care has been taken to make it fairly representative of the best modern popular literature. There are, in addition, 432 volumes set apart for boys in the reading room devoted specially to their use; and in the general reading room there is a bookcase containing 130 volumes of encyclopædias, dictionaries, and other books of reference. This room is also furnished with an ample supply of the most popular magazines and newspapers of the day.

Councillor J. W. Southern (Chairman of the Libraries Committee) presided ; and on the platform were Dr. A. W. Ward, Councillor Harry Rawson (Deputy-Chairman of the Libraries Committee), Aldermen Crosfield, Leech, Hoy, and Higginbottom, Councillors W. H. Wainwright, C. Jennison, J. Phythian, Uttley, Rothwell, Norris, Mr. Alexander Ireland, and Mr. Charles W. Sutton (Chief Librarian). Amongst those in the audience were Rev. F. Cuthbert, Mr. C. H. Bullock, Mr. J. Finlayson, Rev. F. Francis, Mr. Henry Caddick, Mr. William Macbeth, Mr. W. H. Beastow, Mr. W. H. Chadwick, Mr. W. F. Broadhead, Mr. Eli Rowcroft, and others.

The Chairman said they had met to inaugurate the establishment of the free library for the Gorton Ward. It was one of the consequences of the amalgamation of a portion of Gorton with the City of Manchester. When the representatives of the Gorton district came to negotiate with the members of the Council as to amalgamation they proved themselves keen business men, and they wanted to know what would be the advantages they would gain by entering the city. They set forth their requirements, and among the rest they specified that there should be provided for the people of the district a free library. The representatives of the city were ready and willing to give the promise, and that day they had come there to witness its fulfilment. The site had been selected by and with the advice and consent of the representatives of the ward. They had looked well over the district, various places were suggested, and the site which in their judgment was the best had been chosen. Standing as the library did at that point where so many ways converged, he thought it a very convenient and central position. That was not the first free library they had had in Gorton. It was an interesting fact to know that more than 240 years ago the good Humphrey Chetham, who founded the Chetham Hospital in Manchester, left a sum of £30 with which to provide a library of godly and sound books for Gorton. There seemed to be some fear that the people might get away with the books, and so he ordered that

the books should be chained to a desk. Whether it was that there was a great improvement in public morals in these days, or whether it was that it was a mistaken notion then, he did not know, but it was a fact that last year there were 1,400,000 books issued from the Manchester Free Libraries, and he was within the literal truth when he said that there were not purloined books to the value of £5. That was a testimony to the honesty and care of the people of Manchester, that when a good thing was provided for their use they knew how to use and not to abuse it. He hoped their new library would prove to be a valuable, useful, and appreciated public institution.

Dr. Ward, in declaring the library open, said he highly appreciated the compliment they paid him in inviting him to open the new free library in Gorton. It was said that this was to be known as Manchester's wonderful year or year of wonders, and certainly no part of their community had or would have better reason or better right to share in the elation which the great engineering triumphs consummated in this year had produced in them all than that district of Gorton and its neighbourhood. It was the more gratifying to think that in this wonderful year Gorton's share in the benefits, the advantages, and the nobler pleasures of their common life in that city was likewise being extended and increased; nor was it merely because the occupations and enjoyments of his own life had been so largely concerned with books that he cordially congratulated them on attaining to the possession of a branch free library of their own. They might well feel proud of the expansion of the free library system in Manchester, since more than forty years ago the Manchester public free library was opened at Campfield; proud of the influence which Manchester public spirit had exercised both upon the legislation which had developed that expansion under the conditions, not of a benevolent institution, but of an organised department of civic activity; proud, too, of the devoted and efficient administration of that department by the committee which had conducted it, and by the officers whose trained skill and applied scholarship had made the Manchester Free Library and its branches the admiration, if not the envy, of other great English towns.

Manchester had many libraries of varied value and importance, and would before long, as they knew, have more. There was not a scholar in this part of the country but cherished towards the Chetham Library that kind of reverent affection which historical, local, and personal associations continued to evoke. Soon the splendour of the unrivalled collection which the munificence of Mrs. Rylands had acquired would burst upon their dazzled eyes; and it might interest them to know that Lord Spencer, the former owner of those unique treasures, generously wrote to him that, as they must leave Althorp, there was no place where he would rather they should find another home than in Manchester. Their students' library at Owens College, after being enlarged by many generous benefactors, was recently presented with a most valuable historical collection by the Legatees of their late neighbour, Sir Joseph Whitworth. That library was soon to be housed in an appropriate building at the personal cost of their generous friend—himself a book lover of the real sort—Mr. R. Copley Christie. All those and other libraries Manchester commanded, or would command, for the use of different classes of students and readers; but the free public library and its branches would remain pre-eminent, like the agora of a great and free city, to meet and serve the general public need, which in particular directions those other collections would, he trusted, under fitting regulations with the same freedom supplement. A good time, therefore, was coming, nay, had already come, for readers in Manchester; but a time which, like other good times would, unless its harvest were to droop and wither away, need forethought and—if he might venture on the suggestion—co-operation and co-ordination: things which were, no doubt, more easily talked of than accomplished, but which it was culpable folly to ignore in view of the ever-growing possibilities and opportunities of the future. Let them preserve their libraries and enlarge their stores, and while continually developing what was so excellent in their present administration and management, not overlook their relations to one another, and, should it prove possible, continue in devising means which might render still more beneficially wide their use by every section of that vast and thriving, and not altogether unthoughtful community. He would not warn them

GORTON BRANCH.

GORTON BRANCH READING ROOM.

against certain common abuses of reading since for the most part they were of a kind unlikely to be committed in that place, where there was, we had a right to assume so earnest and genuine a desire of turning to good account the great and bounteous blessing—for he held it nothing less—which was to be placed at their disposal. As well, he said, might I warn you against reading not books, but the backs of books—an odd tendency which was thus described by a satirist of the beginning of the sixteenth century, and which it is a comfort to think is now nearly four centuries out of date :—

> Lo ! in lyke wyse of bokys I have store,
> But fewe I rede, and fewer understande ;
> I folowe not theyr doctryne nor theyr lore ;
> It is ynough to bere a boke in hande ;
> It were to moche to be it such a bande
> For to be bounde to loke within the boke ;
> I am content on the fayre coverynge to loke.
>
> Why sholde I stody to hurt my wyt thereby ?
> Or trouble my mynd with stody excessive,
> Sythe many ar whiche stody right besely,
> And yet thereby shall they never thryve ;
> The fruyte of Wysdom can they not contryve,
> And many to stody so moche are inclynde,
> That utterly they fall out of theyr mynde.

We, in a public and popular library, designed for public and popular use and enjoyment, are not much hurt by taunts which may have had their point in times when books were either choice treasures or costly toys ; and, if you please, I will conclude by imagining—and this without very much stretch or difficulty—a type of reader. I will call him—or her the happy reader, as a great poet called a human being who seeks to fulfil the best purposes of his humanity the 'happy warrior'—

> He
> That every man in arms would wish to be.

We will not over-credit this happy reader ; let him be, for argument's sake, a youth engaged, as would accord with the chief industry of this district, in the arduous

task of gaining skill and experience in a complicated and laborious mechanical craft; or let her be a woman who seeks a refuge from the more circumscribed range and pettier sphere of daily work and daily cares which are women's ordinary lot in the larger world of art to which in her turn she brings quicker and more catholic sympathies; or let him be, what most readers are, not quite so young as they were yesterday, and trusting to books, as others trust to less comprehensive forms of art than literature, or to nature, of which all art is but a reproduction which masters achieve and everybody else bungles; trusting to books I say, for the few moments of refreshment and relief we allow ourselves to snatch in our weekly whirl. Well, I say we will not credit this happy reader with more qualities than he or she can be expected to bear: but we will credit him with what is necessary in order that he should be a happy reader and deserve his chances. He is then possessed of three things needful; and of these the first is enthusiasm, or, in other words, an eagerness to learn, and a prompt mind and grateful heart, towards all opportunities of learning. He may not know, and yet it is very true, that the least confined of sciences and the most ethereal of arts are precisely those that admit no half-hearted pilgrims, no desultory visitors on an unoccupied evening, into their sanctuary. Coyest of all are the proudest of the sciences, those which are concerned with the eternal principles of things, physics, mathematics, and the mental science which speaks in oracles, and often in oracles of verse. Again, our happy reader is possessed of discernment, and with it of that self-knowledge which teaches where to proceed and where to refrain. In his choice of books, as in his choice of all those conditions and circumstances of his life which are under his control (and these are not excessively numerous for most of us), he allows something for the bent of his nature, something for the number of his talents, and something for the preparation or equipment which fortune has enabled him to command or acquire. Thus he prepares his ground, and is able to read for a higher purpose than that of absorbing some particular bit of information or mastering some particular method of action, and for a more enduring result than that of making a better show in the examination room, the

committee room, the club room, the drawing room, or in whatever room or company you please. He shapes his reading and thereby shapes himself, as all of us may do who desire not to play a part, but to fill a place in society —or, in other words, to do their duty in the world where we have our common being and in which we must, more or less, affect one another either for good or for evil. Thirdly, and lastly, we must credit our happy reader with patience. Patience is the crown of human virtues, and humility is its divine exemplar. Nor is its reward ever far off. Our reader finds it, as they say, between the covers of any volume in his library. He need not waste his time, as some superfine noses among his contemporaries do, in searching for pearls in dung heaps; for he is aware that the purpose of reading is, no more than the purpose of life, to hit once in a decade upon a discovery missed by everybody else. But he takes the good as it is provided, and casts aside the evil when he sees, or even when he scents it from afar; and he presses on, neither without acknowledgment of what he uses nor without compunction as to what he leaves aside, but with a belief, nay a certainty, that for steady and unselfish endeavour the road is rarely narrowed, and never closed. And he sees his beacons shining along the way to encourage his progress—the great writers whose light never goes out, the friends of many a generation that has preceded our reader and many that will follow after him—the great men of science and letters, and the poets through whom heaven speaks by an inspiration denied to you and me.

The Chairman requested Dr. Ward to select the first book out of the new lending library. Dr. Ward was furnished with a catalogue, and then said he would take his favourite book of his favourite author, Sir Walter Scott's *Heart of Midlothian*. He had read it once or twice, but he would read it again.

Alderman B. T. Leech moved a vote of thanks to Professor Ward. They in Gorton, he said, had got an excellent library—one that did credit to the district and to the architect who designed it. He trusted they would make good use of it, and that it would be a bridge between many of the young people there and the college of which Professor Ward was the distinguished head.

In these days they had great advantages in the shape of board schools, art schools, technical schools, and so on, by which a lad might make his way in the country.

Alderman Higginbottom seconded the resolution which was carried amid great enthusiasm.

THE OPENSHAW BRANCH.

The fine range of municipal buildings erected in Ashton Old Road, Openshaw, on a site adjoining the Whitworth Baths, and provided jointly by the Manchester Corporation and the Legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth, were opened on Saturday afternoon, July 7th, 1894, by Mr. R. C. Christie, M.A., one of the Legatees, and late Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester. In the buildings there is provided a library containing space for 20,000 volumes, a public hall, a technical school, and what is a departure in municipal buildings, a coffee tavern and chess and billiard rooms. The total cost, including the site, was about £15,000, and towards this the Whitworth Legatees contributed £8,500. A procession was formed of the Committee in the Reception Hall, and they proceeded to the main entrance, where a gold key was presented to Mr. R. C. Christie, who formally opened the door. A meeting was then held in the Public Hall, which was well filled with an interested audience. The Lord Mayor (Sir Anthony Marshall) presided. There were also present Mr. Christie and Mr. R. D. Darbishire (Legatees of Sir Joseph Whitworth), Councillor Southern (Chairman of the Libraries Committee), Alderman Hoy (Chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee), Alderman Crosfield, and Councillors James Robinson, James Saxon, and David Taylor (representatives of Openshaw Ward), and other members of the Corporation; Mr. C. W. Sutton (Chief Librarian), Rev. J. P. Airey, M.A.; Rev. Robert Sutton, Rev. W. H. Cory Harris, Rev. Samuel

HARPURHEY READING ROOM.

Taylor, Mr. J. W. Beaumont, Mr. James Brierley, J.P.; Mr. William Charlton, J.P.; Mr. Stanhope Perkins, Mr. J. P. Sharp, Mr. Arthur Painter, Mr. John Jee, Dr. Bailey, Mr. Alfred Stansfield, Mr. James Pollitt, Mr. J. W. Wheeler (representing Messrs. Neill, the contractors), Mr. Alfred Saxon, Mr. H. B. Brown, Mr. J. Finlayson, and others.

The Lord Mayor said he felt highly honoured at having been invited to preside at the meeting that afternoon. The occasion was one of which they might all feel proud, and they might all rejoice in the great and noble effort that had been made in erecting such a magnificent pile of buildings for the use of the citizens of the district. The Corporation, it would be admitted, had not been slow in using to the full the privileges that were given to them under the Free Libraries Act. They had done so because they felt that free libraries were a necessity if the people were to have the best means of recreation and amusement at their command, and the best means, too, of inspiring them to press forward in the march of social progress. A free library and reading-room had been established in every district of the city. The one at Openshaw was the most comprehensive of all, and for this they had to thank the munificence of the Legatees of Sir Joseph Whitworth. The institution was a new departure, and on that account its future would be watched with great interest in Manchester. It comprised not only a free library and reading rooms, but also a large public hall, magnificent baths, and billiard, smoking, and refreshment rooms. The additions had been provided by the Whitworth Legatees, and this and their other gifts to the city had laid the citizens under a deep obligation.

Mr. R. C. Christie declared the building open. He said, by the favour of the chairman and members of the Libraries Committee of the Corporation of Manchester the very honourable and pleasant duty was committed to him of opening the Municipal Buildings of Openshaw, and addressing those citizens of Manchester who were residents in the township, and might be expected to use and feel interest in them and in the several departments

of mental culture, social intercourse, and pleasure which were united in the purpose and aim of the buildings themselves. It was now five years since he had the pleasure of addressing a public meeting of the inhabitants of Openshaw, not then, but in a few weeks afterwards to become citizens of Manchester. He then had the privilege of presenting to them on behalf of the Legatees of Sir Joseph Whitworth the public baths which they had built out of moneys coming to them from his estate, as a memorial of him, and of his constant wish to benefit his fellow men and promote their welfare in every way. He then shadowed forth some hopes that in some future time some other institution might follow with, at least in part, more directly intellectual aims. When the township of Openshaw became incorporated with the City of Manchester they felt certain that the City Council, which had taken so prominent and so enlightened a part in promoting the free library movement, would recognise the claims of the township to a free library to be provided at the expense of the ratepayers of the city, and they accordingly approached the Libraries Committee with a proposal that the Legatees would give a site and that a building should be erected at their joint cost, the building to include not only a library, public hall, and class rooms for technical and other instruction, but also a coffee tavern and billiard room, with a view of providing means of social intercourse, amusement, and refreshment, not accompanied by intoxicating drinks—in fact to provide a place of innocent recreation and of social intercourse that might prove a useful rival to the public-house. Now he was not about to say a word against a well-conducted public-house, nor was this the time or the place to discuss the evils or the advantages of the liquor traffic. But this he might say, and he thought without fear of contradiction or of giving offence to any, that there ought to be places where good and non-intoxicating refreshments might be had, where billiards and other games might be played, and where people might meet for social intercourse without being expected to drink intoxicating liquor whether they wanted it or not, and in places where there was at least a temptation, and in many cases a strong temptation, to drink more than is good for them. He would like to

express his gratitude to the Libraries Committee for the friendly and cordial manner in which they received the proposal of the Legatees. It was in some sort a new departure, and must be taken to be to some extent an experiment. The Libraries Committee could not itself carry on the coffee tavern, nor could the rates be applied either for its erection or maintenance. But as the Legatees offered to bear much more than the cost of that part of the buildings, the Libraries Committee expressed their willingness to meet their wishes, to join them in the erection of the buildings, and to make the necessary arrangements for the carrying on of the coffee tavern by their tenant. What the Legatees had done had been done in the name of Sir Joseph Whitworth, and with the funds entrusted to them by him, and in furtherance of what they believed would have been his wishes and his aims. He had to express Lady Whitworth's great regret—a regret in which he was sure all would join—that she was not able to be present. As he had said, this was a new departure. It was an experiment which he very earnestly hoped would be successful, because it was of the greatest importance to provide places of amusement free from the temptations of the public-house. In giving the site and providing their share of the cost of the buildings, the Legatees made no formal stipulations. If the coffee tavern, the billiard room, and the play-rooms were popular, and were found to supply a want, they had full confidence in the City Council that they would continue to exist under their supervision. If, on the contrary, their hopes and anticipations should not be fulfilled, they left to the Council full freedom to use the buildings for such purposes as they might think would most conduce to the welfare and to the enjoyment of the inhabitants of Openshaw. He had heard only one objection urged against the coffee tavern and the billiard room, and that was that they were too grand, too luxurious, and that working men would be afraid to use them. He hoped this would not be the case. They were specially provided for the use of the working men and boys of Openshaw, and the working men must remember that the building was their property, and that they could not better please those who had provided it than by making use of it, and showing that they claimed it as their own. Having said these few words on what he

might term the lighter aspects of the building he would turn to those which were its main purposes, its serious aims. In this public hall they had a place suitable for meetings of every kind, whether grave or gay. In the class-rooms there would be carried on, under the powers now vested in the Corporation, classes for technical instruction, which could not fail to be of the greatest advantage to the young people who availed themselves of them. But besides all this, they now had—and it was this he hoped and believed that they were looking forward to with the greatest eagerness, with the most pleasant anticipation—a free public library, a library which would place within the reach of everyone, however humble his position, treasures of thought, treasures of knowledge, treasures of imagination, which fifty years since only the very wealthy could obtain. Here the whole range of English literature was placed within their reach. They had access to 'the fairy tales of science and the long results of time' on which to nourish their minds. He would not trouble them with a history of the free library movement, nor of the honourable part, which Manchester had taken in it. But he might at least say that they all felt proud, as citizens of Manchester, of the fact that Manchester was one of the first places to avail itself of Mr. Ewart's Act, and there was no part of the administration of the City Council upon which they could look with more satisfaction than that under the jurisdiction of the Public Libraries Committee. Formerly—and that not so very long since—it was considered that trade and commerce, and still more those mechanical occupations to which they in Openshaw were specially devoted, were incompatible with a love of literature and a knowledge of books. But happily we had outgrown that narrow view, and we now recognised the fact that the more our time and thought were absorbed in the practical work of our daily occupation, the more desirable was it that in our leisure hours our minds should expand to wider and higher subjects. But books were innumerable, our hours for reading them were few; and the question presented itself, How were we to use these few hours and these innumerable books to the most pleasure and the most profit? It was astonishing how little care many people seemed to take in their choice of books. They would take any book they chanced to find—often attracted, as

LIBRARY

OPENSHAW BRANCH.

OPENSHAW BRANCH READING ROOM.

librarians would testify, by the title, sometimes even by the binding. Probably most of the Openshaw readers would be satisfied with our native English literature, which formed, and rightly formed, the great bulk of the books of this library, and which included, we might say with just pride, some of the greatest poets, historians, and philosophers that the world had seen. There were, indeed, many points in which the literature of England was inferior to that of other nations. It was characterised neither by the polished and pointed elegance of the French, nor the severe and detailed accuracy and thoroughness of the German. But the whole civilised world admitted that among the greatest poets of the world Shakspere and Milton took equal rank with Homer, with Æschylus, with Dante; that among philosophers Bacon and Newton were second to none, either of the ancients or the moderns; that though in history we were beginning to feel that the adventures and the vices of kings and queens, the dates of battles and wars were less important than the condition of the people, the progress of civilization, of art, of philosophy, of commerce, that Gibbon's *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* was incomparable in accuracy, thoroughness, lucidity, and comprehensive grasp of a vast and important subject. Lastly, in prose fiction we possessed the acknowledged master of all—Sir Walter Scott. There was no branch of literature that was capable of affording more pleasure and more interest, even to the desultory reader who only wished to pass his leisure hours pleasantly, than history, and the history of England was second to none for dramatic incident and for narrative interest, while to us it ought to be of the most absorbing interest, as it was certainly of the very highest importance. The extension of the franchise, by which the decision of all important political questions was now vested in the bulk of the people, rendered it more than ever necessary that every elector should possess a knowledge of past history. Every man had now a voice in the settlement of national questions. But how could anyone decide what reforms were needed, what new measures were expedient, who knew nothing of the experience of the past, of the circumstances in which our constitution, our laws, our customs, our civil and religious institutions have grown up during the past

one thousand years? But while we read history with a view of profiting from the lessons of experience, we must not too hastily infer similar results from apparently similar causes, and we must remember with certainty that no past states or society could ever be renewed. The mere fact of an event or a state of society having existed was a guarantee that it would never exist again. In the statistics which our free libraries gave us every year, and which were so valuable and interesting, varied as they were in the books read in different districts among different classes of readers, they all agreed in this, that in the lending libraries the issue of prose fiction was enormously in excess of that of any other class of literature. He was himself, and had been for considerably more than half a century, a great reader of novels. He had derived much pleasure and, he hoped, some profit from them, and he had no wish to see others debarred from a like pleasure and profit. But he was bound to say that when he looked at the returns from the free libraries he could not but feel that there was some truth in recent strictures, that injury was done to good literature by the inordinate predominance of fiction in free libraries, and that they would do well to curtail the supply of modern novels. He now declared these municipal buildings open, and concluded by expressing the wish of all who aided in their erection that they might long continue to be a centre of municipal life, of intellectual culture, and of social enjoyment.

Councillor Southern, Chairman of the Libraries Committee, said that was an auspicious day for the township of Openshaw. Certainly it was a day of great satisfaction and of deep pleasure to the Free Libraries Committee that the work they had had in hand there for so long a period had been brought to so successful a completion. They had special cause for satisfaction in having had Mr. Christie with them to open those buildings, not merely because he was one of the Legatees who had made their erection possible by their pecuniary benefaction, but because his was a name which was known as that of a man who was identified with knowledge and instruction. His object in rising was to ask them to adopt the following resolution of thanks:—

That this meeting tenders its most cordial thanks to

> Mr. Christie for the inaugural address which he has delivered at the opening of the Openshaw Free Library, Public Hall, and Technical School, and expresses its grateful recognition of the munificence and public spirit of the Legatees of Sir Joseph Whitworth in aiding by their generous gift of £8,500 in the provision of this splendid range of buildings.

The land and buildings had cost about £15,000, and towards this the Whitworth Legatees had given in cash £6,500 and the site, which was valued at £2,000. The Town Hall Committee had given £1,500 towards the new hall and they had received a similar amount from the Technical Instruction Committee. The new library opened with 4,700 volumes, and as they found the books were used, and well used, they would increase the number of volumes. They had in that magnificent hall in which they were assembled a meeting room which would accommodate 700 persons. Taking the range of buildings altogether, he thought he might say they were such as would be especially satisfactory to the township of Openshaw. He only wished that every ward in the city was as well accommodated.

Alderman Hoy, Chairman of the Technical Instruction Committee, in seconding the vote, reminded his audience that the gifts which the Whitworth Legatees had made in connection with those buildings were not the only gifts they had made to the City of Manchester, of which the township of Openshaw was now one of the component parts. He could not help feeling that day that the erection of that fine suite of buildings was an act which might perhaps commend itself to other representatives of great commercial and industrial undertakings in various parts of the city as an example of what might be done in other working-class districts by those who themselves had been largely assisted in the accumulation of their resources by the community in which their lot had been cast. Some of them would know that there had been technical classes held in Openshaw for a number of years. The classes had been under the charge of the Technical Instruction Committee, but they had been carried on under very depressing circumstances. They proposed to extend the classes which had been in

existence at Openshaw, and which had a direct and distinct bearing upon the industry in which the great bulk of the people were employed—they proposed to add to the drawing classes and the classes for applied mechanics and steam, which had been previously held, mathematics and geometry. Lectures, assisted by diagrams and the use of the lantern, would also be provided; and if it should be found that there was a desire for the development of other and different work the Committee was fitted to do, nothing would give them greater pleasure than to establish classes in other subjects.

Alderman Crosfield, in supporting the resolution, said he endorsed it with all his heart. He looked upon that noble suite of buildings as the outward and visible sign of inward municipal grace. Those buildings were the result of the liberality of the Legatees of the late Sir Joseph Whitworth, backed up by the Corporation, which was not always so ready to spend money wisely, and to use that money to the very best possible purposes that a corporation could do. It could be said that the buildings were very good, and would be very useful to the people, but the best part of Openshaw was the people themselves. They had in Openshaw about a mile of engineering works, and he ventured to say they turned out in the township work that could not be excelled in any part of Her Majesty's dominions. They had in those works a large number of skilled artizans, and boys who would become skilled artizans. They had in the township 3,000 children in the board schools, and over 2,000 in the voluntary schools, and more than these two together in the Sunday schools. He held that they had in Openshaw some of the brightest and most intelligent boys and girls in the country, who only wanted opportunities to develop their minds, characters, and talents to bring out an amount of latent enterprise and skill which few people had contemplated. It was on behalf of those boys and girls that they were that day rejoicing at the opening of those rooms. So far as he could judge they would have a large number of readers, not only of those books of amusement to which Mr. Christie had referred, but of those which would have a useful influence, and would be valuable to the students

at the technical classes that would be established there. With regard to the social part of the enterprise, he hoped it would provide for workers that recreation to which they only were entitled. He trusted they would not have to put over the door a quotation from Dante up to date. 'All work abandon ye who enter here.' This was his experience of billiard rooms connected both with public-houses or clubs.

The library building is entered from Ashton Old Road, and comprises a library, reading room, and boys' room, which has a separate entrance from a side street.

These rooms are divided from one another by glazed screens, which ensure complete superintendence of all parts of the rooms by the attendants in the library. The library is lighted from large windows looking into Ashton Old Road, and the bookcases are fixed at right angles to the windows, giving space for about 10,000 books. The reading room is in two parts, the larger part being 60ft. by 30ft. and the smaller part 47ft. by 9ft., divided from one another by an arcade of four semi-circular arches carved on polished granite columns. The larger part has an open timber roof. Newspaper racks are fixed on both sides of the room, and two rows of reading tables, accommodating about 90 readers, fill the larger part of it. The boys' room contains seats for 120 readers, and both girls and boys are admitted.

The coffee tavern, games room, and smoke and billiard rooms occupy the front of the building, and are very spacious and comfortable. The billiard room is furnished with three full-sized tables, and is a source of revenue, as a small charge for each game is made.

The walls of nearly all the rooms and passages throughout the building are faced with buff and red bricks, either glazed or unglazed, no plaster being used except for the walls of the library and for ceilings. All joiners' work

is of pitch pine stained and varnished, and the building is heated throughout by hot water. Messrs. J. W. and R. F. Beaumont were the architects.

The years which have elapsed since the opening of this branch have made it apparent that the coffee tavern is not a necessity of the neighbourhood, whilst the games room and billiard room have become so popular and crowded that a doubt as to whether they do not seriously interfere with the utility of the more intellectual side of the institution grows somewhat unpleasantly insistent.

Another result of the amalgamation of the out-townships was the transference to the Libraries Committee of certain properties which had been in the possession of the Overseers, and used by them as offices and for other purposes. The income derived from the letting of these properties will be devoted to library purposes, but in one instance, the township offices at Crumpsall, the building has already been used to extend their work. Those offices were converted into a reading room, which was opened for public use on September 6th, 1897.

THE MOSTON BRANCH.

On February 5th, 1898, the library contained in the Simpson Memorial School, Moston, was dedicated to the public of Manchester. This library was established in 1888 for the use of the members of the Simpson Institute, and the trustees, hoping thereby to extend its usefulness, transferred the admirably appointed reading room and library, together with about 800 volumes of well-chosen books, to the Libraries Committee. About 500 new books were added to the stock, and the inhabitants of the district have indicated their appreciation of

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN EACH LIBRARY AND READING ROOM IN 1897-8.

	Theology and Philosophy	History, Biography, Travels, &c.	Politics and Commerce	Science and Art	Literature and Polygraphy	Prose Fiction	Patents	Embossed Books for the Blind	Totals
REFERENCE LIBRARY	9068	28028	20385	20912	29748	—	6489	—	114630
BRANCH LIBRARIES:—									
Ancoats	825	4259	366	2212	3199	6002	—	—	16863
Cheetham	1066	4309	496	2602	2952	5902	—	—	17327
Chorlton	1100	5381	574	2683	4532	6526	—	—	20796
Deansgate	1291	6033	498	2959	5636	6197	—	346	22960
Gorton	233	1213	176	714	1008	3839	—	—	7183
Hulme	1108	5735	502	3048	4642	7443	—	—	22478
Longsight	253	1421	138	681	1264	5182	—	—	8939
Moston	57	192	64	109	190	548	—	—	1160
Newton Heath	344	1560	213	938	1049	3029	—	—	7133
Openshaw	273	1585	201	1029	1467	4192	—	—	8747
Rochdale Road	779	4610	445	2490	2644	6672	—	—	17640
Rusholme	233	1340	151	687	1124	4069	—	—	7604
READING ROOMS:—									
Bradford	30	188	40	93	302	505	—	—	1158
Chester Road	16	73	11	36	254	482	—	—	872
Crumpsall	5	42	9	14	47	132	—	—	249
Harpurhey	14	212	14	61	160	337	—	—	798
Hyde Road	29	212	10	85	504	701	—	—	1541
	16724	66393	24293	41353	60722	61758	6489	346	278078

ANNUAL ISSUES FROM EACH LIBRARY FOR EACH YEAR FROM 1887-8 TO 1897-8.

YEAR	Reference Library	LENDING LIBRARIES.										READING ROOMS.						Annual Total	Daily Average of the Total Issues
		Deansgate	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Chorlton	Cheetham	Newton Heath	Rusholme	Longsight	Gorton	Openshaw	Moston	Bradford	Harpurhey	Hyde Road	Chester Road	Crumpsall	
36th 1887-8	305765	184298	288678	182548	194782	227365	156742	Commenced September 28th, 1891	Commenced April 30th, 1892	Commenced July 23rd, 1892	Commenced May 5th, 1894	Commenced July 7th, 1894	Commenced February 5th, 1898	15983	24981	Commenced May 7th, 1888	25732	Commenced September 6th, 1897	1606874	4464
37th 1888-9	336058	199148	295218	164642	168192	205873	158047							17754	26846	77963			1649741	4700
38th 1889-90	307785	171567	267184	174742	149238	202913	153183							26507	26810	84879			1564808	4432
39th 1890-1	284829	168381	271824	170034	136485	203607	151370							27115	29711	65768			1509124	4263
40th 1891-2	323453	174962	253684	166504	152499	192860	144088	73272	22397	15016				39288	25099	71516			1654508	5203
41st 1892-3	297827	142129	224175	169970	136015	196445	137579	70798	83162	136636				35619	25030	56729			1712114	5021
42nd 1893-4	339894	158564	248863	164001	156971	208414	123979	78996	89513	147010	40459	24332		38896	19810	57023	17778		1914503	6175
43rd 1894-5	416100	161444	243279	135851	147911	194586	128520	74807	92852	117223	115724	122266		26514	14471	42039	59513		2093100	6190
44th 1895-6	419949	154138	241936	144368	146395	177849	135856	76249	87083	122118	90757	104207		41125	12048	42917	48308		2045393	6033
45th 1896-7	437798	143804	264475	138551	154925	187853	123869	73545	91720	133285	96325	95470		39606	13120	46578	41209		2082133	5816
46th 1897-8	440442	127682	275099	137697	153310	182259	131558	63343	90599	133058	99826	95973	8498	33835	10019	46230	67386	5632	2101546	5870

the generosity of the trustees by making almost embarrassing demands on the resources of the library.

The latest action taken in regard to the extension of the branch library system has been in conjunction with the David Lewis Trust. It is proposed that a library and public institute shall be erected on land adjoining the Lewis Recreation Ground in Blackley, and that the cost should be borne respectively by the Trustees and the Libraries Committee. Plans for the buildings required have been submitted and considered, and there the business at present rests.

DELIVERY STATIONS.

For the further convenience of readers, particularly those who do not reside near any of the lending libraries, the five reading rooms have been constituted "Delivery Stations," at which readers may have books delivered to them from the nearest lending library, thus saving them the necessity of journeying to the library. Books applied for at any of these rooms before 10 o'clock a.m., can be called for after 12 o'clock on the same day, but if applied for after 10 they will not be obtainable until after 12 on the following day. Only one or two of the rooms have been as yet fairly successful in this new development, probably for the reason that the distance from the library nearest to them, of those but little used for the purpose, is not very considerable.

The accompanying tables show the increase in the provision of books and of their use since the beginning of the new era of the growth of the libraries to the present time.

USE OF THE NEWSROOMS.

With the exceptions of the Sunday use of the libraries and the use of the boys' rooms, the figures hitherto quoted

NUMBER OF

	als
Reference Library	30
Branch Libraries :—	
Ancoats	63
Cheetham	27
Chorlton	96
Deansgate	60
Gorton	83
Hulme	78
Longsight	39
Moston	60
Newton Heath	33
Openshaw	47
Rochdale Road	40
Rusholme	04
Reading Rooms :—	
Bradford	58
Chester Road	72
Crumpsall	49
Harpurhey	98
Hyde Road	41
	78

ANNUAL ISSUE

Year	Reference Library	Deansgate	Hulme	Ancoats	Rochdale Road	Annual Total	Daily Average of the Total Issues
36th 1887-8	305765	184298	288678	182548	19478	1606874	4464
37th 1888-9	336058	199148	295218	164642	16819	1649741	4700
38th 1889-90	307785	171567	267184	174742	14923	1564808	4432
39th 1890-1	284829	168381	271824	170034	13648	1509124	4263
40th 1891-2	323453	174962	253684	166504	15249	1654568	5203
41st 1892-3	297827	142129	224175	169970	13601	1712114	5021
42nd 1893-4	339894	158564	248863	164001	15697	1914503	6175
43rd 1894-5	416100	161444	243279	135851	14791	2093100	6190
44th 1895-6	419949	154138	241936	144368	14639	2045393	6033
45th 1896-7	437798	143804	264475	138551	15492	2082133	5816
46th 1897-8	440442	127682	275099	137697	15331	2101546	5870

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USE OF THE NEWSROOMS.

With the exceptions of the Sunday use of the libraries and the use of the boys' rooms, the figures hitherto quoted

have referred solely to the reading of books; yet there is another branch of free library work, not unimportant, still remaining to be considered, but about which it is more difficult to give precise details. This is the work of the newsrooms. To each branch library a large newsroom is attached, which is supplied with a selection of newspapers, periodicals, and books of reference accessible to readers without formality of any kind. This prevents the possibility of ascertaining with perfect accuracy to what extent the newsrooms are used. To obtain information on this point which may be reasonably used as a basis upon which to calculate the number of visits made to the newsrooms, an exact count is taken during two weeks in the year, one in winter and the other in summer. Borrowers entering for the purpose of exchanging their books are not included in the enumeration. The results of the last count, together with the estimated number of visitors derived therefrom, are given in the following table:—

MOSTON BRANCH READING ROOM.

Number of times persons have used the Newsrooms during two weeks—one in February, 1898, and one in August, 1898.

	Totals		Daily Average.		Estimated Total No. of Visitors during the Year
	February	August	February	August	
Branch Libraries :—					
Ancoats	6199	4149	886	593	252738
Cheetham	9180	6632	1311	947	406440
Chorlton	9338	7362	1334	1052	429480
Deansgate	14293	11035	2042	1576	651240
Gorton	3744	2813	535	402	168012
Hulme	9947	8777	1421	1254	481320
Longsight	4295	3990	614	570	212528
Moston	1098	935	183	156	30589
Newton Heath	2677	2345	382	335	128880
Openshaw	4137	2931	591	419	183315
Rochdale Road	9587	6259	1370	894	407520
Rusholme	3793	3129	542	447	179322
Reading Rooms :—					
Bradford	1632	1596	233	228	80040
Chester Road	5730	3809	818	544	247203
Crumpsall	1892	1287	270	184	81493
Harpurhey	3557	2791	508	399	159456
Hyde Road	4846	3723	692	532	222156
	95945	73563	13732	10542	4321732

The following is a Summary of the Statistics relative to the use of the Manchester Public Free Libraries during the last two official years.

VOLUMES USED.	1897-8	1896-7
No. of Vols. used in the Reference Library	440442	437798
,, ,, lent for home use	968634	963127
,, ,, used in the Reading Rooms on Week-days	73740	71303
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Sundays	8026	8908
,, ,, ,, Boys' Rooms on Week-days	472678	464261
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Sundays	138026	136736
Total No. of Vols. used	2101546	2082133
Daily average of Vols. used	5870	5816
READERS AND BORROWERS.		
No. of Readers at the Reference Library	393639	392074
No. of Borrowers (*i.e.*, the number of times they have used the Libraries)	945596	938210
No. of Readers (*i.e.*, users of Books in the General Reading Rooms at the Branches) on Week-days	71516	64161
No. of Readers on Sundays	7843	8790
,, ,, in the Boys' Rooms on Week-days	472678	464261
,, ,, ,, ,, Sundays	138026	136736
Total No. of Readers and Borrowers	2029298	2004232
Aggregate use of the Libraries and Reading Rooms.		
By Borrowers	945596	938210
Estimated number of Visitors to the Newsrooms and Reading Rooms	4321732	4277129
Number of Users of the Reference Library	393639	392074
,, ,, ,, Boys' Rooms	610704	600997
Total number of Users	6271671	6208410
Daily average	17518	17342
BORROWERS' CARDS.		
No. of Borrowers' Cards issued	18809	17189
,, ,, cancelled	18688	18792
,, ,, transferred	583	581
,, ,, now in force	47120	47603
BOOKS LOST.		
Vols. lost by Borrowers and paid for by them	93	89
,, ,, and paid for by guarantors	16	17
,, ,, and not yet recovered	30	23
LIBRARY STOCK.		
Vols. bound and repaired	14133	12162
Vols. and Periodical Cases lettered	16945	13937
Vols. withdrawn as worn-out	8016	5225
,, ,, as duplicates or useless	508	1311
Additions to the Libraries (including replacements of worn-out books)	14883	12180
No. of Vols. in the Reference Library	114630	110358
,, ,, Lending Libraries and Reading Rooms	163448	161500
Total No. of Vols. in all the Libraries	278078	271858

SPONTANEOUS GROWTH.

From the figures contained in the foregoing tables it will be seen that for the last official year, 1897-8, the total number of visits to the whole of the institutions for every purpose to which they are devoted was estimated to be 6,271,671, or 17,518 every day. On comparing these figures with those for 1871-2 (the end of the first period of growth), namely, 2,264,688, it will be found that the use of the Free Libraries has increased by nearly 300 per cent. But the population has by no means grown at the same rate, the difference between the present estimated number, 540,000, and that of the census of 1871, 351,189, being roughly about one-half greater. The increase in population, therefore, cannot account for this vastly enhanced use, and the additional facilities (new branches, Sunday opening, boys' rooms, &c.) make a difference only of rather more than two millions. It is clear, then, that a spontaneous growth of about 33 per cent. has taken place in recent years in the use by the public of their free libraries, and so far as can be judged this growth will not only be maintained, but will expand as the years advance.

WHAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBRARIES MAY MEAN.

This fact, full of satisfaction as it is for those interested in this movement, naturally impels us to ask, what does all this mean? All this reading of newspapers and books, what does it prove and what does it imply? These questions are not easily answered. It is difficult to appraise the value of an undertaking of which the effects are mainly moral, and the results not immediately apparent. There are many such undertakings at work in our midst, seeking to supplement, as powerfully as they can, the efforts of religion and of the State to increase the well-being of the people. Often and often, and year by

year, these efforts seem to be abortive, and the vast volume of misery and crime appears never to grow less. And yet, if we take a wider view, if we look back upon the centuries, the intellectual and moral advance which has been made is almost startlingly visible. Is it not very probable that the work of these free libraries may be helping more largely in this direction than even their advocates assume? No earnest reader of good books can fail to derive benefit therefrom. Nor is it possible for a community to have at its call without let or hindrance the best literature of all civilised peoples, the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of all the ages, and the latest results of investigation or discovery, without becoming, if they make themselves acquainted with these things, better men and better citizens, better workers and better competitors in the arena of the world's industry. It is for this purpose and to this end that all education exists and is directed. At school we provide our children with tools which they may afterwards use to carve their way to fortune. But in such process these tools will need strengthening, improving, sharpening, and so our youths are passed on to the Technical School, and finally to that university of the worker, a large collection of books. Here they find the instruction of their text-books expanded and carried to its latest known achievement by men who have made it the business of their lives specially to study some special subject, or are introduced to the wide fields of imagination, theory, speculation, or record, in which they may find relief from labour, or suggestions for turning their knowledge and abilities to account. Such libraries as our extensive and most valuable Reference Library place the poor scholar in the matter of books on a level with the millionaire, and so it seems that it would be well if a closer connection than at present exists could be

devised between the schools, both elementary and technical, and this natural and indispensable supplementer of them.

THE ECONOMIC LESSON OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

An important economic lesson which the establishment of these free libraries enforces is that which Mr. Stanley Jevons calls the principle of the multiplication of utility. In other words, they show how cheaply and how well a thing can be done by co-operative effort. No individual, unless his income were princely, could acquire and maintain a library at all comparable with these. Yet the community not only does this with ease, but at so trifling an individual expense that it is probably felt by no man. In other directions this principle of co-operative effort has spread, and is likely to spread. Carlyle said that co-operation would be the future solution of the labour question. That stage has not yet been reached, but it can hardly be denied that it is the duty of every honest man to do his best to help his fellow-man, and he can best do so by working heart and soul in combination with him. The present basis of society has been called an enlightened selfishness; but when the poor amongst us have learned to be honest, and sober, and faithful to each other, they will then assuredly band together and eliminate from it whatever militates against enlightenment Everything, ever effort, every institution, that will assist them to do this is a noble thing, and of good report, and that community is wise which takes unto itself and cherishes whatsoever means are helpful to this splendid consummation.

THE COST.

What the annual cost is to the community of Manchester for providing itself with the magnificent system of public libraries which has been established the accom-

panying table shows. The income derivable from a rate of 2d. in the pound, to which the expenditure on these institutions is limited, amounts in round figures, to £25,000 per annum.

INCOME TAX.

A few years ago the Income Tax Commissioners made the discovery that the property of the Public Library Committees had till then escaped the lynx-eyes of their officials. This was not to be tolerated longer and accordingly in 1892 such property was in various parts of the county scheduled for payment of income tax. Bristol and Manchester immediately appealed against this imposition. The Bristol case was tried first, and was decided against the Corporation on the ground that the buildings assessed did not belong to a "Literary or Scientific Institution," within the meaning of the Income Tax Act. This rebuff did not alarm Manchester. The Corporation of that city determined to fight their appeal to the end, and the final result of their efforts was complete victory, and the relief of the public libraries throughout the country from this additional load sought to be laid upon their already over-burdened shoulders. This case was of such high importance to the institutions concerned and so many novel, debatable, and vital points in connection with them were raised and discussed during its progress that a brief history of it should be placed on record.

When the Manchester Public Libraries Committee received in 1892 a demand for Income Tax from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, they appealed locally but postponed any further action until the settlement of the Bristol case. At the meeting of the Library Association in Aberdeen, in 1893, the Chairman of the Manchester Libraries Committee gave a promise that Manchester would proceed with its appeal. It was thought that the best course

Electric Fittings.	Coal, Gas, and Water.	Sundries.	Totals.	Deduct Receipts.	Totals.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1 14 3	144 15 10	141 6 8	5388 8 10	127 18 10	5260 10 0
—	104 1 6	22 10 8	927 8 10	8 7 0	919 1 10
—	97 17 7	23 18 0	1043 5 9	10 0 0	1033 5 9
—	133 5 8	20 8 6	1091 12 6	11 9 8	1080 2 10
—	149 14 5	15 9 3	1212 18 4	7 8 11	1205 9 5
—	93 16 9	13 2 1	768 7 10	3 13 11	764 13 11
—	87 7 2	16 0 0	1276 17 6	15 7 5	1261 10 1
—	68 4 0	32 18 9	941 2 0	40 19 8	900 2 4
—	—	6 5 4	183 6 0	—	183 6 0
—	63 4 0	17 12 3	662 19 9	6 5 9	656 14 0
—	172 2 4	38 5 11	1203 6 10	144 5 9	1059 1 1
—	129 9 10	26 18 7	920 13 3	10 9 6	910 3 9
—	52 15 9	13 6 7	747 3 6	31 5 0	715 18 6
—	45 13 4	3 12 10	351 19 6	26 4 0	325 15 6
—	58 18 10	4 16 11	433 13 5	3 7 6	430 5 11
—	28 17 3	8 14 9	329 1 11	—	329 1 11
—	39 7 10	5 13 8	285 3 5	1 9 9	283 13 8
—	54 18 5	3 17 10	410 1 8	2 8 9	407 12 11
1 14 3	1524 10 6	414 18 7	18177 10 10	451 1 5	17726 9 5

			£ s. d.
Manchester Museum.			
nchester Museum, Owens College			400 0 0
Interest and Liquidation of Debt.			
ner Charges on New Loans and Renewals	7 15 0		
ebt (including Bank Interest and Commission) ...	986 14 11		
... ...	464 6 2		
	1458 16 1		
Bank Interest and Charges for Repayment of Loans	45 18 6		
			1412 17 7
		£	19539 7 0

PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS FROM 1st APRIL, 1898, TO 31st MARCH, 1899.

	Salaries and Wages.	Rent, Chief Rent, Rates, Taxes, and Insurance.	Books.	Bookbinding.	Periodicals and Newspapers.	Printing, Stationery, and Catalogues.	Alterations, Repairs, and Furniture (including Painting).	Electric Light.	Electric Fittings.	Coal, Gas, and Water.	Sundries.	Totals.	Deduct Receipts.	Totals.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Reference Library ...	(a)2623 17 4	131 7 3	968 7 11	502 19 5	191 19 2	233 19 11	196 2 0	201 19 1	51 14 3	144 15 10	141 6 8	5388 8 10	127 18 10	5260 10 0
BRANCH LIBRARIES :—														
Ancoats	381 10 9	1 19 6	105 16 3	83 6 4	98 18 3	12 12 0	116 13 7	—	—	104 1 6	22 10 8	927 8 10	8 7 0	919 1 10
Cheetham	478 16 5	88 7 11	115 10 6	78 0 0	112 9 2	27 3 10	21 2 4	—	—	97 17 7	23 18 0	1043 5 9	10 0 0	1033 5 9
Chorlton	510 5 4	54 15 2	112 18 6	99 0 7	121 8 5	20 14 3	18 16 1	—	—	133 5 8	20 8 6	1091 12 6	11 9 8	1080 2 10
Deansgate	512 18 0	1 5 6	106 16 2	106 2 7	130 14 3	14 0 5	175 17 9(b)	—	—	149 14 5	15 9 3	1212 18 4	7 8 11	1205 9 5
Gorton...	415 16 2	31 4 9	63 2 8	36 19 5	91 7 9	7 6 2	15 12 1	—	—	93 16 9	13 2 1	768 7 10	3 13 11	764 13 11
Hulme...	607 18 2	122 8 3	169 12 5	107 13 2	132 14 2	13 12 11	19 11 3	—	—	87 7 2	16 0 0	1276 17 6	15 7 5	1261 10 1
Longsight	434 11 6	58 8 9	93 12 5	53 4 2	97 0 9	35 18 5	67 3 3	—	—	68 4 0	32 18 9	941 2 0	40 19 8	900 2 4
Moston	92 15 5	—	4 2 1	11 7 11	26 11 6	40 16 3	1 7 6	—	—	—	6 5 4	183 6 0	—	183 6 0
Newton Heath ...	337 7 6	33 13 4	45 5 4	33 10 5	88 8 2	32 16 3	11 2 6	—	—	63 4 0	17 12 3	662 19 9	6 5 9	656 14 0
Openshaw	537 3 11	72 18 2	108 2 1	35 16 8	99 8 0	11 2 0	128 7 9	—	—	172 2 4	38 5 11	1203 6 10	144 5 9	1059 1 1
Rochdale Road ...	390 1 11	36 14 4	83 2 5	86 2 8	114 15 6	6 13 10	46 14 2	—	—	129 9 10	26 18 7	920 13 3	10 9 6	910 3 9
Rusholme	378 14 10	19 1 10	72 8 6	61 9 2	88 6 9	12 3 8	48 16 5	—	—	52 15 9	13 6 7	747 3 6	31 5 0	715 18 6
READING ROOMS :—														
Bradford	126 19 7	25 2 8	4 19 8	2 9 11	53 18 9	3 19 3	85 3 6	—	—	45 13 4	3 12 10	351 19 6	26 4 0	325 15 6
Chester Road... ...	212 14 5	18 14 4	5 8 10	5 8 6	80 11 7	3 19 7	43 0 5	—	—	58 18 10	4 16 11	433 13 5	3 7 6	430 5 11
Crumpsall	123 14 7	18 14 3	1 7 4	—	44 11 2	1 14 7	101 8 0	—	—	28 17 3	8 14 9	329 1 11	—	329 1 11
Harpurhey	122 19 3	0 9 0	1 19 8	4 2 0	68 15 4	4 10 7	37 6 1	—	—	39 7 10	5 13 8	285 3 5	1 9 9	283 13 8
Hyde Road	208 6 6	35 10 6	2 10 2	17 13 6	81 18 8	2 8 1	2 18 0	—	—	54 18 5	3 17 10	410 1 8	2 8 9	407 12 11
£	8496 11 7	750 15 6	2065 2 11	1325 6 5	1723 17 4	485 12 0	1137 2 8	201 19 1	51 14 3	1524 10 6	414 18 7	18177 10 10	451 1 5	17726 9 5

	£ s. d.
Manchester Museum.	
Contribution to Manchester Museum, Owens College	400 0 0
Interest and Liquidation of Debt.	
Stamp Duty and other Charges on New Loans and Renewals	7 15 0
Interest on Loan Debt (including Bank Interest and Commission) ...	986 14 11
Sinking Fund...	464 6 2
	1458 16 1
Deduct Receipts for Bank Interest and Charges for Repayment of Loans	45 18 6
	1412 17 7
£	19539 7 0

NOTE—(*a*) Including £20. 13s. for Transcribing Manchester Sessions MS., and £5 for Transcribing Catalogue
(*b*) Including Contract for Shelving £80.

of action would be to endeavour to obtain a reversal of the Bristol judgment in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court. This meant in effect a request to the judges, Mr. Justice Wright, and Mr. Justice Collins, who had decided the Bristol case to review their judgment, and come to a totally opposite conclusion. After a careful hearing these judges decided not to stultify themselves, but strongly recommended the appellants to carry the case to the Court of Appeal. This accordingly was done and the case came on for hearing on January 30th, 1895, before the Master of the Rolls (Lord Esher), and Lords Justices Lindley and Rigby, and once more suffered the misfortune of being dismissed with costs. But the decision was not unanimous. Justices Lindley and Rigby supported the adverse decision, but the Master of the Rolls strongly opposed it. In delivering judgment Lord Justice Lindley said he "could not think that a Municipal Corporation or body of ratepayers who by adopting the Public Libraries Act, have become liable to be rated in order to maintain a public library is a literary institution within the meaning of that phrase in Schedule A, Part 6, of the Income Tax Act, 1842. A literary or scientific institution supported by rates is not in my opinion such an institution as was contemplated by the legislature. To call the Corporation of Manchester, even in its character of Library Authority, a Literary Institution is in my opinion to misapply the expression, and to extend the exemption to a class of cases to which it was never intended to apply."

Lord Justice Rigby said he was of the same opinion, and he drew a distinction between the owners of the building and the building itself, and the purposes to which it was devoted. Though these institutions might be said to be literary institutions their owners could not be described as a literary or scientific institution.

LIBRARY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY

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The Master of the Rolls in dissenting from the views of his colleagues made certain observations which may possibly prove of the utmost value in determining the construction to be placed upon the wording and intention of the Public Libraries Acts. "I feel much pressed by this" he said, "that if the law is as has been stated it must have been about as severe a blow to the intention of the Legislature when they passed the Public Libraries Act as can be given, for the case would stand thus: That if any person is willing to give a building or land of his for the purpose of a public library he gives up all control of that land, he has no power to take it back, he has no power to sell it, he has no power to interfere with it, he gets nothing from it, but he gives it for the purpose of a public library to be enjoyed by other people than himself, and he is left to pay this tax to the government for the rest of his life or for ever. Well, I should say that anything more absurd than such legislation, if it is the legislation, which was meant to encourage people to give their land or to give their property for these public libraries, cannot well be imagined."

Then he proceeded to define the position of a Mayor and Corporation, in their general and ordinary capacity, as regards the ownership of any building devoted to public library purposes, and to the expression of views which, if acted upon, may lead to friction and even litigation between library committees and the body by whom they may have been appointed. "The first thing in my opinion," he contends "is this, that they (the Mayor, &c.) are not the owners of this building in that capacity—they are not the owners at all, and if they are not the owners at all they cannot be made liable to this tax. These buildings did belong to the Corporation of Manchester, but they resolved to give them up—to turn them into free

libraries." He then argues that the Corporation of Manchester in its capacity as Urban Authority had delegated these libraries and the property connected therewith to a "Library Authority" and such property was vested in them. He continues "Now what are the Library Authority with regard to that land. It is vested in them, they never can receive any benefit from it; they are obliged to deal with it solely for the purposes of the library. It seems to me that they are nothing but bare Trustees for the people who use the library. They are the Library Authority—not the Corporation of Manchester, mind. If the Corporation of Manchester attempted to intermeddle with this thing at all, in their capacity of Corporation, I should say they would be doing that which they have no possible right to do. In my opinion the proper inference is that they (the Legislature) in 1892 intended to put these free libraries within the exception in the Act of 1842. If they have not done it they have defeated their own object in the greatest measure."

This strong dissention on the part of so eminent an authority encouraged the Manchester Committee to continue the combat, but as much expense had been already incurred they appealed to the Free Library Committees throughout the country for assistance in carrying the suit to the highest court in the realm—the House of Lords. Their request was promptly responded to and a sum of £300 was guaranteed. An action was entered accordingly and the case was heard before the Lord Chancellor (Lord Halsbury), Lord Herschell, Lord Macnaghten, and Lord Morris. After an exhaustive hearing judgment was finally given nearly six months later, in favour of the appellants. Thus after four persevering efforts this important victory was won, and another obstacle in the somewhat thorny path of the free library movement was removed.

During the progress of the case some curious and interesting points were debated. One of these was "Is a Public Library a literary institution?" Such a question seems too simple to be serious, but it gave the legal quidnuncs much scope for learned discussion, the gist of it turning however on the meaning attachable to the word "institution." Even the dictionary was called upon for an authoritative pronouncement, but its definitions also got terribly belaboured, until the Lord Chancellor had to admit that "if you begin to apply rigorous rules of verbal accuracy to phrases contained in a Statute, I do not know where we shall be." The Lord Chancellor based his disagreement with the view of the majority of the court on the assumption that the legislature in passing the Income Tax Act of 1842 intended the exemption to apply to institutions then in existence and whose constitutions and objects were well known. Lord Herschell in the course of his judgment said: "Apart from any question of the ownership of the buildings and of the maintenance of the libraries by a rate levied on the occupiers within the city, I do not think it was doubted that a public free library is a literary institution. Its object is to spread a knowledge and love of literature among the people. Such an institution is in my opinion quite aptly termed literary. The difficulty arises from the other words used. To be exempted the building must be 'the property of a literary institution.' What was meant by this was property appropriated to and applied for its purposes. I think, therefore, that even though the Corporation of Manchester in whom the buildings, the taxation of which is now in question, are vested, cannot be said to be itself a literary institution, nevertheless, the buildings being appropriated for the purposes of free public libraries, being devoted exclusively to that use, and

incapable of being legally applied to any other purpose, may properly be said to be the property of a literary institution."

Lord Macnaghten considered that the Legislature intended that the character of the institution, not the circumstances of its origin or the means by which it was established or supported, should give rise to the claim for exemption. He could not see that it mattered in the very least in whom the legal ownership of public library buildings was vested, provided the buildings themselves are legally appropriated to the purposes of the institution.

By this judgment three important points have been definitely settled. We know now that free libraries are "literary institutions," that corporations are "literary institutions," and that property devoted to public library purposes is exempt from income tax.

Now that the Government has been beaten, it naturally follows that efforts will be made to shake off the burden of local taxation. The act exempting literary institutions from these imposts expressly stipulates that they must be supported "wholly or in part by annual voluntary subscriptions." This will form the difficulty to be overcome. But those who may be contemplating a tilt against the authorities anent this question, may well take heart of grace from the words of the Government's own advocate Mr. Danckwerts, who in the course of his argument made these important admissions :—

"The contest here is between imperial and local taxation, and the question is whether, when buildings of this sort become appropriated under the Public Libraries Act, they shall cease to contribute to imperial taxation, although they are still liable to local taxation. I submit that all the reasons which *a priori* would have made in favour of exemption from imperial taxation apply equally

to local taxation. I submit that there is no greater reason why they should be exempt from one kind of taxation than from the other kind of taxation."

In these words is encouragement and hope enough. And after all it is merely a legal cobweb that needs be swept away, for on the grounds of equity or reasonableness local taxation of these useful institutions is more undefensible and iniquitous than even the proposed imperial extortion which has been so successfully resisted.

RULES, REGULATIONS, AND BYE-LAWS.

In the measures and methods adopted for working the public libraries modifications and changes have been made from time to time as experience was acquired, or a more liberal spirit prevailed. At their commencement the Reference Library was open to the public every day, except Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, from ten in the morning to nine at night, and the Lending Library from noon to two o'clock, and from six to nine in the evening, except on Saturdays, when the library was open from twelve to nine. Now the Reference Library is open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. every week day, the additional hour of access both morning and evening having been adopted in 1886, and also on Sundays from two to nine o'clock. It is closed only on Christmas Day and Good Friday. With the growth of the branch library and newsroom system the hours during which the institutions are open, and in which the business connected with them is transacted, have necessarily completely changed, and will be found detailed in the "Directions to Readers and Borrowers," given on page 233.

The clumsy process of causing all persons on entering the library to write their names and addresses in a book provided for the purpose, and only allowing them to

receive books after such signature was obtained, formed one of Mr. Edwards's "Provisional Rules," but it was soon abandoned, and restriction of entry entirely swept away. For the procurement of books to read in either the Reference or Lending Libraries, a printed form was substituted for the register, and this system is still in use.

No one was allowed free access to any books, but had to find whatsoever was required by means of the catalogues. Now cases are provided in all the libraries, wherein the latest additions are displayed, books are freely shown to borrowers to facilitate their choice, and both in the Reference and Lending Libraries open shelves containing a selection of books for reference are accessible to everyone without formality of any kind.

Originally it was deemed prudent to require the signatures of two ratepayers as guarantors for a borrower's honesty. Not only have these been reduced to one, but in case the intending borrower is an elector of either Manchester or Salford he may be his own guarantor. The guarantee form in the early days must have been delivered to the Librarian three days before books could be obtained, in order that the verifications required might be elaborately made. Now the form is examined on delivery, and if found correct books may be borrowed without further delay.

In 1879 Bye-laws for the regulation of the libraries were drawn up by the Committee, sanctioned by the Council, and approved by the Secretary of State, and are now in force. They are as follows :—

BYE-LAWS OF THE PUBLIC FREE LIBRARIES, CITY OF MANCHESTER.

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Manchester, in the County of Lancaster, being assembled in

Council in the Town Hall, in the said city, on Wednesday, the third day of September, 1879, and more than two-thirds in number of the whole Council being present, do hereby, in pursuance of "The Manchester Improvement Act, 1871," make the following Bye-laws:—

1. In construing these Bye-laws the word "Library" shall mean any and every Public Free Library for the time being belonging to or vested in or under the control of the said Council, and the several rooms, passages, and staircases thereof, and the word "Librarian" shall include the principal Librarian and his assistants, and the word "Book" shall include newspapers, pamphlets, pictures, engravings, maps, plans, and other articles of a like nature; and all words importing the masculine gender shall be deemed and taken to include females, and the singular to include the plural, and the plural the singular.

2. Every such library shall be open to the public gratuitously daily throughout the year, with the exception of Christmas Day, Good Friday, and such other days, if any, as the Libraries Committee of the said Council shall direct, and during such hours as the said Committee shall direct. No person shall enter or remain in any library except whilst it is open to the public as aforesaid.

3. No person who is in a state of intoxication, or is uncleanly in person or dress, or who is suffering from an infectious or offensive disease, shall be admitted to or allowed to remain in any library. No person shall be allowed to lie on the benches or chairs, or to sleep in any library, or to interfere with the arrangements for conducting it, or with the comfort of the readers therein, or to use the same for any purpose for which it is not intended. No conversation shall be permitted in any library. No person shall partake of refreshments, or smoke, spit, strike matches, or bring a dog into any library. The admission of persons under 14 years of age to any reading room shall be in the discretion of the Librarian.

4. No person shall pass within the enclosures of any library, or take any book from the shelves.

5. Every person desiring to read books in any library shall

write his true name and place of abode, and the title and number in the catalogue of the book required by him, on a ticket provided for that purpose, which is to be delivered to the Librarian; and shall before leaving the room return such book into the hands of the Librarian, and shall not, under any circumstances, take the same out of the room.

6. Books will be lent from the lending department of each library to an elector of Manchester or Salford, on his signing a voucher in the presence of the Librarian, or to a non-elector upon the production of a voucher for the safe return of the books, signed by a person enrolled on the List of Citizens of Manchester, or on the List of Burgesses of Salford, or on the Parliamentary Lists of Manchester or Salford, such vouchers to be on the forms provided for the purpose.

7. Any person who shall deliver, or permit to be delivered, to the Librarian any voucher which shall not have been actually signed by the citizen, burgess, or elector by whom it purports to have been signed, or some person duly authorised by him, or wherein any false statement is made, shall be subject to a penalty not exceeding £5; and any person not being the intending borrower named in any voucher, or authorised by him, who shall attempt to use the same, shall be subject to the like penalty.

8. In exchange for the voucher above mentioned the Librarian will deliver to the applicant a borrower's card, which must be produced on every application for a book. Any person who is not named in the said card, or authorised by him, who shall make use of the same for the purpose of obtaining a book or books, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5. The lending register of any library shall be sufficient evidence that the book therein named has been lent to the person whose name is written opposite the same on the date therein specified.

9. No person shall be eligible to borrow books from more than one lending department at the same time; but any borrower who has conformed to these Bye-laws may have his card transferred from one lending department to another. No person shall have more than one borrower's card, nor be allowed more than one book or set of books, at the same time.

10. Every person taking out a book from any lending department under the foregoing regulations must return the same within the period specified on the label of such book, and must, whether such period has expired or not, return the same in accordance with any public notice calling in books posted in the library from which the same shall have been borrowed.

11. If any book be not returned in accordance with the regulations herein contained, or if it be returned torn, cut, soiled, written in, or with leaves turned down, or otherwise injured, the borrower shall pay to the Committee such a sum of money as will replace such book or set of books to which it belongs, or be a full compensation for the damage or loss sustained by the library. If the borrower shall not make such payment, the citizen, burgess, or elector whose name is subscribed to such voucher shall, on demand, pay to the Committee such sum of money as aforesaid. When a new copy of a book or set of books has been provided in lieu of that or those injured, the person at whose cost the same shall have been so provided will be entitled to the damaged copy or remaining volumes, each volume being stamped "Sold from the Manchester Public Free Libraries." Books stolen or lost shall continue the property of the Council, although replaced or paid for.

12. Any person suffering from an infectious disease who shall borrow, read, or use any book from any library, or any person having a book from any library who shall permit the same to be used by anyone suffering from an infectious disease, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5.

13. Any person selling, pledging, pawning, or disposing of, or purchasing or advancing money upon any book, newspaper, or other article, from any library, or attempting so to do, shall forfeit and pay a penalty not exceeding £5.

14. No person shall write upon any book, or shall soil, damage, mutilate, or deface such book, or the walls or windows of any library, or the furniture or fittings thereof, or any property of the Council connected therewith.

15. Any person offending against the foregoing Bye-laws may (whether or not he has been convicted before Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in respect of such offence) be excluded

from the use of every library for such period as the said Committee may determine.

16. The Librarian, and any police constable instructed by him, may exclude or remove from any library all idle or disorderly persons who are not using such place for the purpose for which it is intended, or who have, in the opinion of such Librarian, been guilty of a breach of any of these Bye-laws or of any public law.

To facilitate the use of the lending libraries and the newsrooms by the public, these directions have been prepared and are expected to be observed.

DIRECTIONS TO READERS AND BORROWERS.

1. The lending department is open for the delivery and return of books from 8-30 a.m. to 9-0 p.m. every day, except Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday. On Saturday the issue of books to borrowers ceases at 5-0 o'clock. The newsroom is open daily from 8-30 a.m. to 10-0 p.m., except Christmas Day and Good Friday, and is also open on Sundays, from 2-0 p.m. to 9-0 p.m. The Boys' Reading Room is open from 6-0 to 9-0 every evening.

2. Admission to the newsroom is free.

3. Books may be obtained to read in the newsroom by signing a reader's ticket, which may be had on application. Books so obtained are not, under any circumstances, to be taken out of the newsroom.

4. Persons, being non-electors, wishing to borrow books to read at home must obtain the signature of some person whose name is either on the List of Citizens of Manchester or on the List of Burgesses of Salford, or on the Parliamentary Registers of Manchester or Salford, who shall sign the following voucher for the safe return of the books :—

> I undertake to pay, in respect of any book belonging to the CORPORATION OF MANCHESTER, which shall be issued in the name of
> of
> and which shall be injured or not duly returned, such sum of money as will replace such book, or the set of books to which it belongs. Signature of Guarantor
> Ward and Address of Guarantor
> Dated this day of 18

Any elector of Manchester or Salford may obtain books for home reading after signing a voucher in the form provided, of which the following is a copy.

I, the undersigned, being an Elector of
and being desirous of Borrowing Books, to take home for reading, and knowing the Bye-laws and Regulations of the MANCHESTER PUBLIC FREE LIBRARIES, hereby apply for a Borrower's Card, entitling me to Borrow Books from the Lending Branch.

If any Book issued in my name should be damaged or not duly returned, I engage to pay such sum of money as will, to the satisfaction of the Librarian, compensate for, or replace such book or the set of volumes to which such book belongs; and, further, I engage to conform in all other respects to the Bye-laws and Regulations of the MANCHESTER PUBLIC FREE LIBRARIES.

Dated this day of

Signature { Name_____
Occupation_____
Address or Residence_____
Ward_____

Witness_____

Librarian or Assistant Librarian.

N.B.—This application must be signed in the presence of the Branch Librarian or his Assistant and left with him for examination.

Printed voucher forms may be had on application. The voucher, when duly signed and found correct, will be exchanged for a borrower's card, which, in the case of electors, will have to be renewed every year, and of non-electors every three years.

5. Every person on obtaining a borrower's card must write his or her name, occupation, and residence in a book provided for that purpose; and such signature shall be taken and considered to be an assent to the Bye-laws.

6. It is desirable that books should be applied for by the borrowers personally. When they cannot conveniently visit the library, they are requested to send a messenger competent to deliver their messages and to take due care of the books. The librarian has instructions to refuse books to messengers who are not able to take proper care of them.

7. Borrowers returning their books are expected not to leave them on the counter, or give them into the hands of strangers, but to deliver them to the Librarian, or his assistant, the borrower being held responsible for books not so delivered.

8. The same borrower is not eligible to borrow books from more than one lending branch at a time, but borrowers may have their cards transferred temporarily or permanently from one branch to another.

9. Borrowers are cautioned against losing their cards, as they will be held responsible for any book or books which may be taken out of the library by the use of their cards until the period for which the card is granted has expired. Lost cards can be replaced subject to this responsibility.

10. Any change in the residence of borrowers or their guarantors must be intimated to the Librarian within one week of such change. Inattention to this direction will render the borrower's card liable to suspension.

11. Borrowers are requested to use tbe books carefully, to keep them clean, not to fold down the leaves, nor make marks of any kind in them.

12. Borrowers leaving town, or ceasing to use the library, are required to return their cards to the Librarian in order to have their guarantees cancelled, otherwise they and their guarantors will be held responsible for any books taken out in their names.

13. On asking for books, the title should be legibly written down, with the number and class letter affixed to it in the index catalogue; and it is recommended that a list of at least twenty books in the order wanted should be furnished in all cases of works in general demand, as many of them may be out at the time.

14. No book can be engaged beforehand; but the borrower who first applies for a book after it has been returned is entitled to have it.

15. The period of loan may be renewed on presenting the book, or by postal card, provided it is not in request by any other borrower. Postal cards must contain the class letter, name, and number of the book, the date of issue, and the borrower's signature. They must also be received before the expiration of the time allowed for reading the book.

16. Borrowers detaining books beyond the time allowed for reading will incur the risk of having their privilege to borrow suspended or forfeited, and of having a special messenger sent for the books at their expense.

17. Borrowers should bear in mind that all have equal claims to the use of the library, and each can only be attended to in turn.

18. Printed catalogues may be purchased at the library ; and copies of the same, with a manuscript catalogue of the current additions, are placed on the library counter for reference.

19. The Librarian will receive suggestions from readers as to any books they may consider desirable to be introduced into the library, and such suggestions will be submitted to the Committee for their consideration.

20. Special attention is called to the following clause of 24 and 25 Victoria, cap. xcvii. :—

"Whosoever shall unlawfully and maliciously destroy or "damage any thing kept for the purposes of art, science, or "literature...in any...library...open for the admission of the "public...shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and, being duly "convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any "period not exceeding six months, with or without hard "labour."

"...Any person found committing any offence against "this Act may be immediately apprehended, without a "warrant, by any other person and forthwith taken before "some neighbouring Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with "according to law."

THE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

GUIDE TO ITS CONTENTS AND USE.

WITH the exception of Christmas Day and Good Friday the Reference Library is open every day from 9 o'clock in the morning to 10 at night, and on Sundays from 2 to 9 p.m. It contains nearly 120,000 volumes, and there is sitting accommodation for about 200 persons. It is divided into two portions, the upper and lower reading rooms. In the upper reading room, which is one of the largest and finest rooms devoted to a like purpose in the country, any book or magazine possessed by the library may be consulted, but it is considered preferable that those kept in the lower reading room should be asked for there. The lower reading room is specially allotted to

1. SPECIFICATIONS OF PATENTS, of which a complete set, numbering about 7,000 volumes, and dating from 1617, is provided, and kept up to date by the addition of every specification as soon as it is received from the Patent Office. Space being imperatively needed for the ordinary accumulations of the library, the Patents have been temporarily transferred to the Deansgate Branch, where they can be consulted during the whole time that the library is open.

In Manchester the only approach to a well-equipped library of specifications of patents is the patents' department of the Free Reference Library, which contains all the publications of the English Patent Office, though it is weak in the publications of foreign offices. The number of separate specifications is something like half a million. The specifications from 1652 to 1875 are classified by subjects, and those of later date are arranged in chronological order. The specifications are made accessible by means of annual indexes of the names of patentees, and of the subject matter of the patents, and further help is given by the *Abridgments of Specifications*, which are handy volumes giving an outline of the purport of each specification. Some of the abridgments, unfortunately lose much of their value by not being brought up to date. Indispensable to the searcher is the *Patents' Journal*, which contains lists of the most recent patents, information as to patents which have lapsed, and at times reports of patent law cases. Besides the English patents, there are, the *Journal* of the United States Patent Office from 1856 to 1871 and from 1880 to the present year, and the complete specifications of United States patents have been filed since 1897. The number of patents issued each year in the United States is over twenty thousand, making about 100 thick volumes annually. Of Canadian Patent Office publications, the library contains the *Record* from 1873. A few publications of the Victorian, Queensland, and French Patent Offices are also in the collection. An important city like Manchester ought to have a patent library where the full specifications of every country could be consulted ; but the resources of the Free Libraries Committee are inadequate to the provision and maintenance of such a library, which would be very costly, even were the specifications themselves presented.

2. DIRECTORIES, English, Foreign, Mercantile, and others, as follows :—

ENGLISH.

Altrincham, Bowdon, Sale, &c.
Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, and Northamptonshire.
Belfast.
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire.
Birmingham.
Bradford.
Bristol and Clifton.
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk.
Cardiff.
Channel Islands.
Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Rutland.
Devonshire and Cornwall.
Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland, and Cumberland.
Edinburgh and Leith.
Essex, Hertfordshire, and Middlesex.
Glasgow.
Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, and City of Bristol.
Grimsby.
Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, and Channel Islands.
Herefordshire and Shropshire.
Hull.
Ireland.
Isle of Man.
Kent, Surrey, and Sussex.
Lancashire.
Leicestershire and Rutland (Wright's).
Leeds
Levenshulme, Heaton Chapel, &c.
Lincolnshire and Hull.
Liverpool (Gore's).
Liverpool and Birkenhead (Kelly's).
London.
London Suburbs.
Manchester, Salford, and Suburbs.
Monmouthshire and South Wales.
Munster.
North Shields, South Shields, Jarrow, Sunderland, Gateshead.
Northamptonshire.
Nottingham and District (Wright's).
Nottinghamshire (White's).
Oldham.
Prestwich, Eccles, Patricroft, &c.
Scotland.
Sheffield.
Southport and Birkdale (Slater's).
Southport.
Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire.
Wales, North and Mid.
Warrington, St. Helen's, and Widnes.
Wellingborough.
York (White's).
Yorkshire West Ridings.
,, North and East Ridings.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

Alsace-Lorraine.
Argentina.
Argus Annual and South African Directory.
Australia—
West Australia.
South Australia.
New South Wales.
Queensland.
Victoria.
New South Wales (Hall's).
Basel, Adressbuch.
Belgium.
Berlin.
Brazil.
British Columbia.
British Guiana.
Canada.
Ceylon.
China, Japan, Straits Settlements, &c.
Egypt.
France { Départments. Étranger.
Germany.
Hungary.
India.
Italy.
Mexico.
Natal.
Netherlands.
New York City.
New Zealand.
Paris.
Portugal.
Rio de Janeiro.
Russia.
South Africa.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.—*Continued.*

Singapore and Straits Settlements.
Spain.
Switzerland.
Tasmania.
Toronto.
Turkey (Annuaire Oriental).
United States.
Vienna.
Westphalia.

MERCANTILE AND TRADES.

Advertiser's A.B.C.
Advertising, practical.
American Textile and Dry Goods Trade.
Architect's Compendium.
Atlantic Cable Code Directory.
Banking Almanac.
Business Diary, and Trade Directory (Jowett's).
Birmingham Trades Directory (Peck's).
Buyer's Guide (Crane's).
Booksellers, Publishers, and Authors.
Booksellers (Clegg's).
Building Trades.
Chemical Diary (Wood's).
Clothing District.
Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers (Worrall's).
Cabinet, Furniture, and Upholstery Trades.
Chemists and Druggists.
Co-operative Wholesale Societies Annual.
Denmark Handels—Kalender.
Directory of Directors.
Dock and Port Charges.
Electrical Trades.
Electrical Directory (Berly's).
Electrical Undertakings, Manual of Engineer's Diary.
Engineers, Iron and Metal Trades.
English Directory (Macdonald's).
Export Merchant Shippers.
Financial Reform Almanack.
France, Annuaire, de la Marine de Commerce.
Gas and Electric Lighting Works Directory.
German Textile Directory.
Grocery, Oil & Colour, Confectionery, Tobacco and Provision Trades.
Insurance Blue Book and Guide.
Insurance Directory.
Keramischen Industrie Adressbuch.
Labour Annual.
Laxton's Builders' Price Book.
London and County Trades Directory.
London Business (Morris's).
Manchester Royal Exchange Directory.
Manufacturers and Merchants (Perry's).
Mercantile Directory (Collingwood's).
Mercantile Directory (Wilson's).
Merchants and Manufacturers (Lamb's).
Merchants, Manufacturers, and Shippers of Lancashire.
Merchants, Manufacturers, and Shippers (Kelly's).
Merchants, Manufacturers, and Shippers (Stubbs').
Mining Manual.
Mining Register.
Nautical Almanac.
Newspaper Press Directory.
Post Magazine Almanac.
Railway and Commercial Gazetteer.
Railway Goods Traffic and Carrying Charges.
Railway Stations Handbook.
Scottish Directory (Macdonald's).
Shareholders Guide.
Shipping Register.
Shipping World Year Book.
Shorthand and Typewriting Year Book.
Stationers, Printers, Publishers, Booksellers, and Paper Makers.
Stock Exchange Year Book.
Stock Exchange Official Intelligence.
Stock and Shareholders Directory.
Telegraphic Addresses (Sell's).
Telegraphic Code (Slater's).
Telegraphic Code (ABC).
Telegram Code (Ager's).
Textile Directory, Yorkshire.
Textile Diary (Woods).
Textile Directory, Europe.
Textile Directory, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.
Textile Fabrics, Manufacturers.
Watch and Clock Trades.
Wine and Spirit Trades, Brewers, and Maltsters.
World's Press (Sell's).
Wright's Australian, Indian, &c., Trades Directory.

TITLED, OFFICIAL, AND PROFESSIONAL CLASSES AND HANDBOOKS.

Army List, Official.
Army List (Hart's.)
Almanach de Gotha.
Baptist Handbook.
British Almanac.
British Imperial Calendar and Civil Service List.
Cape of Good Hope Civil Service List.
Catholic Directory.
Charities of London (Low's).
Charities of London (Lane's).
Charities Annual Register and Digest.
Church of England Year Book.
Clergy List.
Clerical Directory.
Colonial Office List.
Constitutional Year Book.
Congregational Year Book.
County Councils, Municipal Corporations, and Local Authorities Companion.
Debrett's House of Commons and Judicial Bench.
Debrett's Peerage, &c.
Englishwoman's Year Book.
Era Annual.
Essex Hall Year Book.
Foreign Office List.
Hazell's Annual.
Hospitals and Charities (Burdett's).
India List.
Institute of Chartered Accountants, Bye-Laws, &c.
Jamaica Handbook.
Jewish Year Book.
Kelly's Titled, Landed, and Official Classes.
Lancashire Congregational Calendar.
Law List.
Local Government Directory.
London Manual.
Manchester Diocesan Directory.
Manchester Official Handbook.
Medical Directory.
Medical Register.
Municipal Year Book.
Musical Directory.
Naval Annual.
Naval and Military Directory.
Navy List.
Natal Civil Service List.
Parliamentary Companion.
Public Schools Year Book.
School Calendar.
Scientific and Learned Societies Year Book.
Society of Accountants Bye-Laws, &c.
Statesman's Year Book.
Thom's Official Directory
Wesleyan Minutes of Conference.
Whitaker's Almanac.
World Almanac.
Year's Music.
Year's Art.

Any directory likely to be of value to the commercial community is added when it appears, and new editions of those already taken are obtained as soon as issued. Back volumes of many of them are also preserved, the most important sets being that of Manchester, dating from the first directory issued by Mrs. Raffald, in 1771, and coming down to the present time, and those of London, Liverpool, and Dublin.

3. NEWSPAPER FILES.—Files of the following Manchester newspapers for the dates affixed, but many of the earlier volumes are incomplete :—

Manchester Magazine, 1737-60.
Lancashire Journal, 1738-40
Anderton's Manchester Chronicle, 1762.

NEWSPAPER FILES.—*Continued.*

Harrop's Mercury, 1754-1821.
Prescott's Manchester Journal, 1738-40.
Wheeler's Chronicle, 1791-3, 1808-13, 1817-23, 1826, 1833-42.
Herald, 1792-3.
Cowdroy's Gazette, 1796-1827.
Exchange Herald, 1809-26.
British Volunteer, 1814-15, 1819.
Courier, 1817-19.
Observer, 1818-21.
Guardian, 1821-99.
Courier, 1825-99.
Times, 1828-31, 1833-7.
Advertiser, 1833-41, 1843-4, 1854-60.
Chronicle, 1839-41.
Examiner and Times, 1847-52, 1857-94.
Alliance News, 1854-99.
Weekly Guardian and Express, 1860-3.
Weekly Times and Supplement, 1862-99.
City News, 1864-99.
Daily Journal, 1867.
Gazette and Advertiser, 1873-4.
Evening News, 1873-99.
Evening Mail, 1874-99.
Weekly Post, 1875-87.
Courier Supplement, 1882-99.
North Times, 1882.
Morning Star, 1882.
Latest News, 1882.
Umpire, 1884-99.
Sunday Chronicle, 1885-99.
Evening Chronicle, 1897-9.
Herald, 1899.

There is also a file of the *Times* from the beginning of the century, and a nearly complete set of the *London Gazette* from 1665.

4. PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.—The Parliamentary Papers, as issued by the Government from time to time during the Session, are purchased. A collection of these, extending to some 2,500 volumes, and dating from the beginning of the century, is also on the shelves, but for dates previous to the year 1883 it is very incomplete.

5. REVIEWS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS.—Of these a large number are taken, and the following is the present list. D, signifies daily; W, weekly; F, fortnightly; M, monthly; Q, quarterly. The bound volumes of these periodicals, of which complete sets, in most cases, are in the library, may be consulted in this room. The publications of many Societies are also added to the library as they are issued.

Abolitionist (M.)
Academy (W.)
Alliance News (W.)
Alpine Journal (Q.)
American Architect (W.)
American Historical Review (Q.)
American Journal of Science (M.)
Analyst (M.)
Anglia (Q.)
—— Beiblatt (M.)
Anglo-Saxon (Q.)
Annals of Botany (Q.)

REVIEWS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS.—*Continued.*

Anthropologie, L' (M.)
Antiquarisk tidskrift för Sverige (Q.)
Antiquary (M.)
Archæological Journal (Q.)
Architect (W.)
Architecture (M.)
Army and Navy Gazette (W.)
Artist (M.)
Art Journal (M.)
Arte Italiana Decorativa e Industriale (M.)
Asiatic Quarterly Review (Q.)
Athenæum (W.)
Atlantic Monthly (M.)
Author (M.)
Badminton Magazine (M.)
Beiträge zur Assyriologie (Q.)
Berichte der Österreichischen Gesellschaft zur förderung der Chemischen Industrie (M.)
Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Archæological Journal (Q.)
Berliner Architekturwelt.
Bibliotheca Sacra (Q.)
Bimetallist (M.)
Black and White (W.)
Blackwood's Magazine (M.)
Board of Trade Journal (M.)
Bookman (M.)
Book-Prices Current (Q.)
Bookseller (M.)
Boston Public Library Monthly Bulletin (M.)
Botanical Magazine (M.)
British Architect (W.)
British Journal of Photography (W.)
British Medical Journal (W.)
Brotherhood (M.)
Bugle Call (M.)
Builder (W.)
Building News (W.)
Bulletin de l' Institut International de Statistique (Q.)
Bulletin de la Société Géologique de France (M.)
Bulletin de la Société Industrielle de Mulhouse (M.)
Bulletin de la Société Industrielle de Rouen (M.)
Bulletin de Statistique et de Législation comparée (M.)
Bulletin of the American Geographical Society (Q.)
Cabinet Maker (M.)
Canadian Patent Record (M.)
Cardiff Public Library Journal (Q.)
Cassier's Magazine (M.)
Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen (M.)
Century Magazine (M.)
Chambers' Journal (M.)
Chemical News (W.)
Chemical Trade Journal (W.)
Chemicker Zeitung (M.)
Cheshire Notes and Queries (Q.)
Church Missionary Intelligencer (M.)
Church Quarterly Review (Q.)
Churchman (M.)
Classical Review (M.)
Colliery Guardian (W.)
Commerce (W.)
Contemporary Review (M.)
Contract Journal (W.)
Cook's Excursionist (M.)
—— Ocean Sailing List (Q.)
Co-operative News (W.)
Cornhill Magazine (M.)
Cosmopolitan (M.)
Cotton (W.)
Cotton Factory Times (W.)
Dania. Tidskrift för Dansk sprog og Litteratur samt Folkeminder (Q.)
Deutsche kunst und dekoration (M.)
Deutsche Rundschau (M.)
Dingler's Polytechnisches Journal (W.)
Dublin Review (Q.)
Dyers' Trade Journal (M.)
East Anglian (M.)
East Lancashire Review (M.)
Economic Journal (Q.)
Economist (W.)
Edinburgh Review (Q.)
Educational Review (M.)
Educational Times (M.)
Electrican (W.)
Engineer (W.)
Engineering (W.)
Engineering Magazine (M.)
English Catalogue of Books (M.)
English Historical Review (Q.)
English Illustrated Magazine (M.)
Englische Studien (Q.)
English Mechanic (W.)
Entomologist (M.)
Entomologist's Monthly Magazine (M.)
Era (W.)
Espana Moderna (M.)
Estates Gazette (W.)
Evening Student (M.)
Expositor (M.)
Field (W.)
Financial Reformer (M.)
Financial Times (D.)
Folk-Lore (Q.)
Fortnightly Review (M.)

REVIEWS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS.—*Continued.*

Forum (M.)
Free Sunday Advocate (M.)
Gardeners' Chronicle (W.)
Gardening (W.)
Gas World (W.)
Genealogical Magazine (M.)
Genealogist (Q.)
Gentleman's Magazine (M.)
Geographical Journal (M.)
Geography (M.)
Geological Magazine (M.)
Giornale Dantesco (M.)
Gloucestershire Notes and Queries (Q.)
Good Words (M.)
Graphic (W.)
Grocers' Review (W.)
Guardian (W.)
Harper's Monthly (M.)
Harvest (M.)
Homœpathic Review (M.)
Hong Kong Government Gazette (W.)
Horological Journal (M.)
Humanity (M.)
Ibis (Q.)
Idler (M.)
Illustrated London News (W.)
Imperial Institute Journal (M.)
Index Library (Q.)
Industrie Textile (M.)
Industries and Iron (W.)
Inquirer (W.)
Institut International de Bibliographie. Bulletin (Q.)
Intermédiaire L' (F.)
International Journal of Ethics (Q.)
International Sugar Journal.
Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie (M.)
Investor's Monthly Manual (M.)
Investors' Review (W.)
Iron and Coal Trades Review (W.)
Iron and Steel Trades Journal (W.)
Jewish Quarterly Review (Q.)
Journal des Économistes (M.)
Journal of American Folk-lore (Q.)
Journal of Botany (M.)
Journal of Education (M.)
Journal or Gas Lighting (W.)
Journal of Indian Art (Q.)
Journal of Philology (Q.)
Journal of Physiology (Q.)
Journal of Political Economy (Q.)
Journal of State Medicine (M.)
Journal of the Anthropological Institute (Q.)
Journal of the Board of Agriculture (Q.)
Journal of the British Archæological Association (Q.)
Journal of the Chemical Society (M.)
Journal of the Ex-libris Society (M.)
Journal of the Institute of Bankers (M.)
Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (M.)
Journal of the Linnean Society.
Journal of the Manchester Geographical Society (Semi-annual).
Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society (Q.)
Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society (M.)
Journal of the Royal Colonial Institute (M.)
Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society (Bi-M.)
Journal of the Society of Arts (W.)
Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry (M.)
Kew Gardens Bulletin (M.)
Knowledge (M.)
Labour Gazette (M.)
Labour Co-Partnerships.
Lancashire County Council Proceedings.
Lancet (W.)
Law Quarterly Review (Q.)
Law Times (W.)
Liberator (M.)
Liberty Review (M.)
Library (M.)
Library Assistant (M.)
Library Journal (M.)
Library World (M.)
Lincolnshire Notes and Queries (Q.)
Literary Guide (M.)
Literary News (M.)
Literary World (W.)
Literature (W.)
Liverpool Mercury (D.)
Liverpool Shipping Telegraph (D.)
Local Government Journal (W.)
Local Government Chronicle (W.)
London Gazette (Semi-W.)
London Quarterly Review (Q.)
Longman's Magazine (M.)
Machinery (M.)
Machinery Market (M.)
Macmillan's Magazine (M.)
Magazine of Art (M.)
Magazine of Natural History (M.)
Manchester Chamber of Commerce Monthly Record (M.)

REVIEWS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS.—*Continued.*

Manchester City Council Proceedings (M.)
Manchester City Council Proceedings, Epitome (M.)
Manchester City News (W.)
Manchester Courier (D.)
Manchester Entertainments Programme (W.)
Manchester Evening Chronicle (D.)
Manchester Evening Mail (D.)
Manchester Evening News (D.)
Manchester Faces and Places (M.)
Manchester Guardian (D.)
Manchester Herald (W.)
Manchester Journal of Commerce (D.)
Manchester Local Postal Guide (M.)
Manchester Quarterly (Q.)
Manchester Royal Infirmary Students' Gazette (M.)
Manchester Weekly Health Returns (W.)
Manchester Weekly Times (W.)
Mariner (M.)
Mechanical Engineer (W.)
Mechanical World (W.)
Medical Chronicle (M.)
Memoirs and Proceedings of the Manchester Literary and Philosphical Society (Q.)
Meteorological Magazine (M.)
Mind (Q.)
Mineralogical Magazine (Q.)
Mining and Engineering (M.)
Mining Journal (W.)
Minutes of Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers (Q.)
Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica (Q.)
Modern Quarterly of Language and Literature (Q.)
Monde Moderne (M.)
Money Market Review (W.)
Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (M.)
Municipal Journal and London (W.)
Musical Herald (M.)
Musical Times (M.)
Nation [New York] (W.)
Nationalokonomisk Tidsskrift (Q.)
National Review (M.)
Natural Science (M.)
Naturalist (M.)
Nature (W.)
Nature Notes (M.)
Navy List (Q.)
New Book List (and Cumulative Index) (M.)
New Church Magazine (M.)
New England Genealogical and Historical Register (Q.)
New Ireland Review (M.)
New World (Q.)
New York Public Library Bulletin (M.)
Nineteenth Century (M.)
North American Review (M.)
Northern Churchman (M.)
Northern Finance and Trade (W.)
Northern Genealogist (Q.)
Notes and Queries (W.)
Numismatic Chronicle (Q.)
Nuova Antologia (F.)
Oddfellows' Magazine (M.)
Oxford Shorthand Chronicle (M.)
Orient (M.)
Owens College Union Magazine (M.)
Pall Mall Magazine (M).
Paper Maker (M.)
Patents: Illustrated Official Journal (W.)
Patents: Law Reports (W.)
Patents: United States Official Gazette (W.)
Petermann's Mitteilungen (M.)
Pharmaceutical Journal (W.)
Philosophical Magazine (M.)
Phonetic Journal (W.)
Photographic Record (Q.)
Phrenological Magazine (M.)
Polybiblion, Revue Bibliographique Universelle (M.)
Portfolio (Q.)
Positivist Review (M.)
Post Office Guide (Q.)
Proceedings of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (Q.)
Proceedings of the Malacological Society (Q.)
Proceedings of the Royal Society (M.)
Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archæology (M.)
Public Health (M.)
Public Libraries (M.)
Publishers' Circular (W.)
Punch (W.)
Quarterly Journal of Economics (Q.)
Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science (Q.)
Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society (Q.)
Quarterly Publications of the American Statistical Association, (Q.)
Quarterly Review (Q.)

REVIEWS, MAGAZINES, AND NEWSPAPERS.—*Continued.*

Quarterly Report of Births, Marriages, and Deaths (Q.)
Queensland Government Gazette (M.)
Railway Guides:
Bradshaw's [1d. and 6d.] (M.)
Cheetham's (M.)
Continental Bradshaw (M.)
Heywood's (M.)
Simm's (M.)
Railway News (W.)
Record of Technical and Secondary Education (Q.)
Reformer (M.)
Reliquary and Illustrated Archæologist (Q.)
Review of Reviews (M.)
Revue Celtique (Q.)
Revue des Deux Mondes (F.)
Rivista d'Italia (M.)
Ross's Parliamentary Record (W.)
St. Louis Public Library Magazine (M.)
Salem Public Library Bulletin (M.)
Salford Chronicle (W.)
Salford Council Proceedings (M.)
Salford Reporter (W.)
Sanitary Inspector (M.)
Sanitary Record (W.)
Saturday Review (W.)
School Board Chronicle (W.)
School Board Gazette (M.)
Science Gossip (M.)
Science of Man (M.)
Science Work (M.)
Scientific American (W.)
Scottish Antiquary (Q.)
Scottish Review (Q.)
Scribner's Magazine (M.)
Script Phonographic Journal (M.)
Shorthand Magazine (M.)
Sketch (W.)
South Australian Government Gazette (W.)
Speaker (W.)
Spectator (W.)
Statist (W.)
Stonyhurst Magazine (M.)
Strand Magazine (M.)
Student's Journal [Graham's Standard Phonography] (M.)
Studio (M.)
Sunday Chronicle (W.)
Tablet (W.)
Textile Manufacturer (M.)
Textile Mercury (W.)
Textile Recorder (M.)
Textile Review of America (M.)
Times (D.)
Trade Journals' Review (M.)
Trade Marks Journal (W.)
Transactions of the Manchester Geological Society (M.)
Truth (W.)
Ueber Land und Meer (F.)
Ulster Journal of Archæology (Q.)
Ulula (M.)
Umpire (W.)
University Correspondent (W.)
Vaccination Inquirer (M.)
Vegetarian Messenger (M.)
Weekly Return of Births and Deaths in London, &c. (W.)
West Ham Library Notes (M.)
Western Australia Government Gazette (F.)
Westminster Review (M.)
What's On (W.)
Windsor Magazine (M.)
Y.M.C.A. Bee-Hive (M.)
Zoologist (M.)

The Reference Library contains a few manuscripts, some interesting specimens of early printing, and a number of rare books, but the strength of the collection lies in the modern and standard works, which include many important and costly illustrated books on architecture, botany, decoration and design, painting and sculpture, and the fine arts generally; as well as the best books in history, archæology, topography, science, mechanical arts, politics, theology, poetry, and other departments of literature.

MANUSCRIPTS.

Some of the manuscripts possess considerable interest. A list of them together with a description of the more remarkable follows. I am indebted to Mr. Ernest Axon for the account of the Owen and Hibbert-Ware manuscripts.

THE OWEN MSS.

The Owen collection of manuscripts is one of the most remarkable collections of material for local history ever got together by one man. Mr. John Owen has for something like sixty years devoted his time to transcribing parish registers and copying monumental inscriptions, and the eighty folio volumes of the Owen MSS. represent the life work of that veteran antiquary, whose hobby has earned him the not inappropriate name of "Old Mortality." Perhaps the most important of the volumes are those relating to the Collegiate Church or Cathedral of Manchester. These include a verbatim transcript of the first two hundred years of the voluminous parish register, which together with an alphabetical index, occupies some twenty volumes. A valuable supplement to the register is a copy of the sexton's book which gives the age and cause of death of the persons buried at the Collegiate Church during part of the last century. Another Collegiate Church item is a transcript of every inscription on the walls of the church, in the vaults under the church, and in the churchyard. This collection of inscriptions is and must remain unique for many of the inscriptions have become worn or have been covered over since Mr. Owen's transcript was made. Many of the gravestones are drawn in facsimile and a large number are annotated with extracts from the registers. Mr. Owen's interests have not been confined to genealogical matters for he gives a

diary of discoveries made during the restoration of the Cathedral, which he illustrates with numerous sketches of architectural details. The collection also includes abstracts of 618 leases from the Warden and Fellows which throw considerable light on local history. In addition to the Cathedral inscriptions the collection contains copies of each gravestone inscription in almost every other Manchester and Salford church and chapel yard, including those in several burial grounds which have been built upon or covered over and turned into "open spaces." Besides Manchester inscriptions the collection includes the whole of those in the various burial grounds of Stockport, most of those of Ashton-under-Lyne, those in the parish churchyards of Bolton, Bowdon, Middleton, Didsbury, Prestwich, Northenden, Flixton, Rostherne and indeed of a large proportion of the graveyards in the neighbourhood of Manchester. In some of these churchyards the inscriptions are very numerous, Mr. Owen having transcribed over 2,000 from St. John's, Manchester, and over 3,000 from the Bolton Parish Church. Then there are verbatim transcripts of long series of years of the parish registers of Flixton, Warrington, Bolton, and Newton Heath, and voluminous extracts from many other local registers. Amongst the miscellaneous items are transcripts of eighteenth century overseers' accounts for Hulme, Chorlton, and Manchester, notes on the history of Stretford and Stockport, careful descriptions and beautiful drawings of local churches and old houses, notes on clock makers and surgeons, gravestone inscriptions from distant places relating to Manchester people, and extensive notes on the more important Manchester families of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. All the volumes mentioned so far are in Mr. Owen's particularly neat handwriting, and their contents are rendered easily accessible by means of

alphabetical indexes. Besides the Owen MSS. proper the collection contains a volume of local antiquarian cuttings, and also a late seventeenth century original manuscript giving the receipts and expenditure of Richard Syddal as administrator of John Browne of Bramhall. This document contains details of expenditure which should make it of considerable value to the student of prices. Although Mr. Owen has in the past placed local antiquaries under obligations by the courtesy with which he placed his collections at their disposal, it is satisfactory to know that they are now in public custody and are accesible to all.

THE HIBBERT-WARE MSS.

Through the generosity of Mrs. Hibbert-Ware, of Bowdon, the library is enriched by the donation of the manuscript antiquarian collections of the late Dr. Samuel Hibbert-Ware. Dr. Hibbert-Ware was a member of the old Manchester mercantile family of Hibbert, was born in Manchester in 1782, and after serving as an officer in the militia settled in Edinburgh, where he resided for many of the best years of his life. He took the degree of M.D. in 1817, and was an active Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Though he was a man of scientific tastes and abilities, Dr. Hibbert-Ware is now perhaps best remembered by his antiquarian work, in particular his "History of the Foundations in Manchester" deservedly taking a high rank as a local history. After leaving Edinburgh he resided for a time in York, but eventually returned to the neighbourhood of his native place, and settled on a small estate at Hale Barns, near Altrincham, and died in 1848. He had adopted his mother's name of Ware to denote his descent from Ware the historian of Ireland, and it is perhaps this descent that is accountable

for the large number of Irish antiquities figuring in his manuscripts. The manuscripts consist of twelve quarto volumes. They contain memoranda made by Dr. Hibbert-Ware, all neatly mounted and classified, together with numerous illustrations, water colour, sepia, and black and white, principally by the late Mr. T. Hibbert-Ware, the eldest son of the Doctor and husband of Mrs. Hibbert-Ware. The first volume relates to Aboriginal Remains, Cromlechs, Things, Moats, and Weaponshaws. Many of the cromlechs are Irish, and the sketches are drawn by Captain Edward Jones, an old friend of Dr. Hibbert-Ware. As these sketches are at least sixty years old, and doubtless many changes have been made since they were drawn, they have great value for the student of archæology. Other interesting features of this volume are the drawings of "Things," of which the best known example is the Tinwald Hill, in the Isle of Man. Volume two is devoted to weathered and detached rocks, the rocking stones of folk-lore, to primitive weapons, to raths and motes, most of them in Ireland, and to stone circles, of the familiar Stonehenge type, of which several Yorkshire examples are drawn. The third volume is occupied by the allied topics of memorial, compact, and boundary stones, coronation stones, caers and duns, burghs and tumuli. There are several views of the Devil's Arrows, at Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, drawn by Mr. Hibbert-Ware in 1835 and 1838, and of other Yorkshire pillars. Among the tumuli there are also several examples from Yorkshire. In the fourth volume are a portion of the Doctor's collections about one of his favourite subjects—vitrified forts—and also notes and drawings of Roman remains, amongst which is a drawing of an altar stone from Boughton, Cheshire, and drawings of several remains from Aldborough and York, of altars found at Lancaster, and

of some antiquities then in the Manchester Museum. In the fifth volume are a number of Mr. T. Hibbert-Ware's beautiful drawings of crosses and inscribed stones in England, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. This subject is continued in the sixth volume, where the crosses are mostly of Irish workmanship. Saxon implements occupy a part of this volume. Ireland is again drawn upon for examples in the seventh volume, which contains many sketches of Irish Churches, but has also a few drawings of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Lancashire churches. Of the latter the most noticeable is a careful drawing of Denton Chapel. An interesting series of views of round towers, chiefly in Ireland, is in the eighth volume, which has also sketches of fonts at Mottram, Eastham, Prestwich, Bury, Walton-on-the-Hill, and at many Yorkshire places. An interesting drawing in this volume is a view by Mr. Hibbert-Ware, of Smithy Door, Manchester, on the 11th February, 1838, when this celebrated Manchester locality was apparently being pulled down. The ninth volume is of a very miscellaneous character, monumental effigies, churches, and prehistoric archæology being each touched upon, and there are further notes on vitrified forts, together with a paper by Dr. Hibbert-Ware on that subject. The tenth volume is devoted to Scandinavian antiquities and to the History of Scotland. Architectural remains, chiefly Irish, and Cheshire Tithe Barns are the subjects of the eleventh volume. Dr. Hibbert-Ware was fond of Hale Barns, and especially of the Old Tithe Barn, and great was his distress when it was pulled down. Fortunately, some years before that event, he had made careful measurements of the barn, and his wife and Captain Jones had made drawings of both interior and exterior, and as the drawings are preserved with these manuscripts, we can get an idea of the size and importance

of the building. The twelfth volume is largely occupied by Irish antiquities. The value of the Hibbert-Ware MSS. is mainly in the pictures, which are drawn with no little skill and artistic ability.

The other manuscripts are—

Account Book, Theatres Royal, Manchester and Liverpool. 1842. Fol.

Anti-Corn Law League Letter Book, Dec., 1838, to Nov., 1840. Fol.

Bailey, John Eglington. Index to Authors of University Poems. Fol.

Banksian Society (Manchester). Minute Book, 1829-1836. 4to.

Brotherton, Joseph. Commonplace Book. 1809. 4to.

Bulkeley, E. W. Annals of Cheshire, A.D. 43-1885. *In 7 boxes.*

Burgersdicius, Franciskus. In Isagoge Porphyrii et Aristotelis Universum Organum Commentarii. 1617. Sm. fol.

Burton, Alfred, *of Cheadle Hulme.* Collections relating to Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquities and Genealogy. Fol. 12 vols.

Butcher, Edmund. The Workman that needed not to be ashamed. A Sermon addressed to the Rev. J. H. Bransby, and to the congregation of Protestant Dissenters assembling at the New Chapel, Moreton Hampstead, on his undertaking the office of their stated minister, Sept. 30th, 1804. 8vo. 18 leaves.

Carlyle, Thomas. [Copy by Alex. Ireland of Carlyle's Note-book, 1822-1831.] 8vo.

Carlyle, Thomas. [Copies of letters from Carlyle to Robert Mitchell, 1814-1822.] 8vo.

Carlyle, Thomas. [Copies of letters from Carlyle to Thomas Murray, 1818-1826.] 8vo.

Carlyle, Thomas. [Note-book containing copies of, and extracts from, letters by Carlyle.] 12mo.

Caryll, Joseph. Notes of Sermons preached by Joseph Caryll. Made by John Weld, senior, living on London Bridge. 1671-72. 8vo.

Chalderinus, Repertorium Juridicum. Fol.

Chetham's Hospital. A list of feoffees . . copied from a MS. lent to me [Sir Thos. Baker] by Benjamin Dennison Naylor. September, 1855. Sm. fol. *Also contains an Account of the Manchester Literary Society.*

Chorlton Row Overseers' Accounts. 1722-1795. Fol.

Collier, John, *Tim Bobbin*, and Collier, John, junior. Three Pocket-books.

Collier, John, *Tim Bobbin.* Correspondence. Transcript, with Notes, by Jesse Lee. 4to.

Commonplace Book. Comprising extracts from Books and Newspapers. *c.* 1750-60.

Conringius, H. Discursus de rebuspublicis principalioribus totius orbis excepta Germania. *Also* Forstner, C. Epistola de moderno imperii statu. *Transcript.* 4to.

Cooper, J. and W., *of Middleton.* Wills and Inventories. 1738. *Copies.* 4to.

Dyeing Recipes. Sm. 4to.

Eeuwige maen-almanach. 1634. 4to.

Extracts from the *Gentleman's Magazine* relating to Lancashire and Cheshire. 1731-1867. 12 vols.

Fraser, James, 1639-1699. A short account of the Life of Sir [*sic*] James Fraser, of Brae, written by himself. 4to. pp. 83. *This was first printed at Edinburgh in 1738. The present is apparently an early MS. copy.*

Gasparinus. Orthographia Gasparini Bergamensis, etc. 1474. 40 leaves. Fol. *On paper.*

Gorton Church. Registers, 1600-1809. Transcribed by J. Leigh. 4to.

Harland, John. Manuscript collections for a History of Shorthand. *8 vols. in case.*

Hazlitt, William. [Miscellaneous sheets of MS., including a portion of the essay "On the Fear of Death."]. Ff. 22.

Heap. A copy of the Survey of the Township of Heap [in parish of Bury] taken in February and March, 1792. Fol.

Higson, John. Supplements to the "Gorton Historical Recorder." Transcribed by J. Leigh. 4to.

Hortulus Memorandum MS. ex Monasterio Dublini. [Circa, 1630]. 4to. 120 leaves.

Hunt, Isaac. [Hylema: 194 Maxims, Observations, Remarks, on Life, Duty, Manners, &c.] 1798. 4to. pp. 101.

Hunt, J. H. Leigh. [Copy of a Review by Leigh Hunt of Dr. Robert Fellowes' "Religion of the Universe"]. Fol. pp. 11. *Apparently unpublished.*

Ireland, W. H. Shakspearian Fabrications. 1802. 4to. 29 leaves. *After W. H. Ireland had confessed the forgery of the Shakspeare Papers, Geo. Chalmers, author of the "Apology for the Believers in the Shakspeare Papers" still remained incredulous as to the possibility of the fabrication, and these documents were executed by Ireland to prove his ability in counterfeiting old manuscripts. The vol. also contains one of the rare handbills distributed at the door of Drury Lane Theatre on the night when "Vortigern" was produced.*

Isle of Man. Copie of all Ordinances, Statutes, and Customs reputed and used for lawes in the Land of Mann, confirmed by the Honble. Sr. John Stanley. With the supposed true Cronicle of the Island, how and by whom ruled from Mannanan to this present year 1732. Fol.

Jones, Ernest. [Diary 1839-47. Professional Diary 1860-66. Legal Memorandum Book.]. 5 vols.

Lancashire Public School Association. [Minutes 1848-62. Letters 1848-57. Newspaper Cuttings]. 8 vols.

Lee, Jesse. Glossary of Lancashire Words and Phrases. 8vo.

Lee, Jesse. Heraldica Lancastria. 1826. 8vo.

Lee, Jesse. Memoir of John Collier, *Tim Bobbin*. Read at a meeting of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester, 15th October, 1839. 4to. *Extended with further MS. matter.*

Lee, Jesse. Notes on John Collier, *Tim Bobbin*. 8vo. 2 vols.

Leigh, J. Memoranda relating to the Family of Lever. 4to.

Lucidarius. [German transcript, or copy from an earlier MS.]. 1482. 4to.

Madden, Sir Frederick. Original draft of paper on Perkin Warbeck, read before the Society of Antiquaries on the 6th, 13th, and 20th April, 1837, and subsequently printed in "Archæologia." Fol.

Manchester, All Saints Church, Funeral Book, 1837-1848. Fol.

Manchester, Mosley St. Club Room. [Minutes 1795-1850. Strangers' Book. Cash Book, 1842-50.] 5 vols.

Manchester Parliamentary Representation Committee, Minute Book, 1827-28. Fol.

Manchester Post Office Site. Leaflets, Newspaper Cuttings, Letters, and other Documents. 1858-1859. Fol.

Manchester, Presbyterian Classis, Minutes 1646-1700. Fol. *Transcript.*

Manchester, St. Ann's Church, Registers, 1736-1808. Transcribed by J. Leigh. Sm. 4to.

Manchester, St. Mary's Church, Registers 1754-1871. Transcribed by J. Leigh. Fol. and 4to. 2 vols.

Manchester, Saturday Half-Holiday, Original Signed Agreement. 1843.

MSS. in the Shorthand Collection. 91 vols.

Massie, William. A Sermon preached at Trafford in Lancashire at the marriage of a daughter of the Right Worshipfull Sir Edmond Trafforde, knight, the 6 of September, Anno 1586. Oxford, 1586. *Transcript.*

Mendelssohn, F. Lauda Sion. [The music and Latin words in the composer's own hand; the English words in the hand of Wm. Bartholomew, who adapted them to the music.] 4to.

Miller, Thomas. MS. of "Royston Gower." Fol.

Mission, M. An Account of the Travels of Mr. Walgrave Crewe, on the Continent of Europe, in 1694-5, in a Letter to his Mother. 12mo. pp. 144.

Monstiers, J. de. Description du pays Descosse. Imprime a Paris, 1538. 8vo. *Transcript.*

Mosley MS. MS. Volume kept by several of the Mosley Family, chiefly in their Capacity as Magistrates in the 16th and 17th Centuries. Sm. fol. *With transcript.*

Murray, Thomas, and Others. [Copies of Letters from Thomas Murray, Robert Mitchell, James Johnston, John Edward Hill, and Francis Dickson to Thomas Carlyle, 1813-1826]. 8vo.

Newton Heath Rate Books, 1819-1837, 15 vols.

Noble, James. Article on Leigh Hunt, Lord Byron, and "The Liberal." 1882. pp. 55.

Osborn, W. A Plan of Mathematical Learning, Taught in the Royal Academy at Portsmouth. Executed by William Osborn, a Student there. 1769. Fol.

Persian, MSS. [Sherah Akaad. Gulistan-i-Sadi. Bostan-i-Sadi. Kimiyae Saadat (on ethics)]. 8vo. 4 vols.

Poole, John, *Farmer, of Alkrington or Middleton.* Diary, 1774-78. Fol.

Pott, Percivall, F.R.S., Senior Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Chirurgical Lectures. *Transcript.*

Savoy, House of. MS. on paper, in Italian, containing:—1. An Account of the Origin and Progress of the House of Savoy. By the Venetian Ambassador to the Court of Turin. Written in 1742. pp. 158. 2. History of the Abdication of the King of Sardinia, Victor Amadeus. By a Contemporary. [Query N. N. Lamberti. See Œttinger, "Bibliographie Biographique," p. 678]. pp. 36. Fol. *Transcript.*

Stockport Parish Registers, 1584-1646. Transcribed by E. W. Bulkeley. Sm. 4to. 3 vols.

Stout, William, *of Lancaster.* Autobiography, 1665-1752. pp. 150. *This was Edited by John Harland, and printed in 1851.*

Tootell, R.I. Analyses of Coals. 1889. Fol.

Turner, Thomas, *Surgeon, of Manchester*. Various Medical MSS., Notes of Lectures, etc., also Copies of Letters, &c. written by Lieutenant C. W. Turner, in India, 1809-1819.

Varey, John. Cash Book, 1780-1786. 12mo.

Waugh, Edwin. Unpublished Pieces, Verse, and Prose, and other MSS. Fol.

Whitaker James, *of Manchester*. Account of the Agitation for the Repeal of the Fustian Act. 1784-85. 4to.

White, James. Original Letters, &c., of Sir John Falstaff and his Friends. 12mo. *MS. Transcript, with printed Facsimile Title, of 1st Edit., Lond., 1790.*

EARLY PRINTED AND RARE BOOKS.

The titles of the books in the library printed before 1520, arranged in chronological order, and of a selection of other rare or curious works, arranged alphabetically, are as follows:—

PRINTED BEFORE 1520.

Biblia Latina. [Old Testament.] Basil. Richel. 1473.

Bible en Duytsche, Delf. 1477.

Carchano, M. de M. Sermones. Basilæ. 1479.

Valla, Lau. De Linguæ Latinæ elegantia. Venet. 1480.

Voragine, J. de. Legenda sanctorum. 1481.

Biblia. "Fontibus ex Græcis, &c." 1481.

Statuta Provincialia Dioecesis Constantiensis. Spiræ. 1482.

The Golden Legend. 1st edit. Westminster: Wm. Caxton. 1483.

Parentinis, B. de. Lilium siue elucidarius difficultatum circa officium misse. Coloñ. 1484.

Guido de Monte Rocherii. Manipulus curatorum. 1484.

Platina. Vitæ Pontificum. Venet. 1485.

Rolewinck, W. Fasciculus temporum. Argent. 1488.

Seneca, L. A. Opera Omnia. Venet. 1492.

Passionael: unde dat Levend der Hylghen. Lubeck. 1492.

Augustine, St. A. Liber epistolarum. Basil. 1493.

Schedel, H. Nuremberg Chronicle. 1493. Fol.

Caoursin, G. Obsidionis Rhodie urbis descriptio. Ulmæ. 1496.

Cleonidas. Harmonicum introductorium. [Also in the same volume works by other writers.] Venet. 1497.

Chronicles of England. Westminster: Wynkyn de Worde. 1497.

Ovidius. Epistolæ Heroides. Venet. 1497.

Celsus, A. C. Medicinae liber primus. Venet. 1497.

Hugo de S. Charo. Postillæ in totam Bibliam. [Vols. 3 and 4.] Basil. 1498.

Dionysius Areopagita. Opera. Paris. 1498.

Plautus, M. A. Comoediæ. Mediolani. 1500.

Boethius. De Consolatione Philosophiæ. Argent. 1501.

Plinius Cæcilius Secundus. Epistolæ. Venet. 1501.
Guarinus, Veronensis. Vocabularius breviloquus. Argent. 1501.
Manliis, J. J. de. Luminare maius. Venet. 1504.
Aristoteles. De Coelo et Mundo [and other works.] Lyptzigk. 1504-7.
Valerius Maximus. Factorum et dictorum. Liptz. 1506.
Nestor Dionysius. Vocabula. Argent. 1507.
Mantuanus, B. Bucolica. Argent. 1507.
Porretanus, G. Liber sex-principiorum. Liptz. 1507.
Cicero, M. T. De Amicitia. Lyptzigk. 1507.
Cicero, M. T. Epistolæ ad familiares. Liptzigk. 1507.
Gregorius Nazianzenus. Libelli. Argent. 1508.
Lactantius, L. C. F. Opera. Venet. 1509.
Andreas, A. Scripta. Venet. 1509.
Statuta Ordinis Cartusiensis a Domno Guigone. Basil. 1510.
Plinius Secundus. Historia Naturalis. Paris. 1511.
Origen. Opera Omnia. Paris. 1512. 2 vols.
Despauterius, J. Rudimenta grammatices. Coloniæ. 1512.
Eusebius. Eusebii Cæsariensis Episcopi Chronicon. Paris. 1512.
Eusebius. Ecclesiastica historia. Argent. 1514.
Damianus, J. Expeditio in Turcas. Basil: Froben. 1515.
Cato. Præcepta moralia, etc. Argent. 1516.
Hutten, U. von. Nemo. Aug. Vindel. 1518.
Irenæus, F. Germaniæ exegesis. Hagæ. 1518.
Bromyard, J. de. Summa predicantium. Norimbergæ. 1518.
Erasmus, D. Farrago nova epistolarum. Basil: Froben. 1519.
Augustine, St. A. Psaultier de Dauid. Paris. 1519.

RARE OR CURIOUS BOOKS.

Ainsworth, W. Harrison, The Bœotian. 1824. Nos. 1-6, all published. 8vo. *Ainsworth's own copy.*

Baines, Edward. History of the County Palatine of Lancaster. Lond. 1836. 4 vols. *Extended to* 10 *vols. by MS., printed and pictorial additions, by Jesse Lee.*

Barrow, Isaac. Sermons and fragments attributed to Isaac Barrow. Now first collected and edited from the MSS. in the University and Trinity College Libraries, Cambridge, by the Rev. J. P. Lee [aft. Bishop of Manchester]. Lond., 1834. 8vo. *The MSS. subsequently proved to be forgeries, and the book was suppressed.*

Beckford, William. An Arabian tale [Caliph Vathek], from an unpublished manuscript. Lond., 1786. 12mo. *Originally written in French, and published in* 1787. *This English version was made by a person whom Beckford declared to be unknown to him, but who is understood to have been the Rev. S. Henley, rector of Rendlesham, and was published anonymously and surreptitiously.*

Bible or Portions of the Bible in the following languages and dialects :— Akra or Ga, Amharic, Ancitum, Anglo-Saxon, Arabic, Armenian, Assam, Basque, Bengali, Berber, Bohemian, Breton, Bulgarian, Canarese, Catalan, Ceylon-Portuguese, Chinese, Coptic, Cree, Danish, Dutch, Erromangan, Esquimaux, Ethiopic, Faté, Fijian, Finnish, Gaelic, Galla,

German, Ghegh-Albanian, Gothic, Greek, Greenland, Gujerati, Gipsy, Harroti, Haussa, Hawaiian, Hebræo-Samaritan, Hebrew, Hindi, Hindi-Kythi, Hindustani, Hungarian, Ibo, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Javanese, Judæo-Arabic, Kafir, Kankuna, Karelian, Khassee, Latin, Lettish, Lifu, Lithuanian, Loochooan, Magyar, Mahratta, Malagasy, Malayalim, Malay, Malliseet, Maltese, Manchu, Manx, Maori, Mayan, Mende, Micmac, Mongolian, Mooltan, Nagri, Nama, Narrinyeri, Nengone, Nepaulese, Norse or Icelandic. Nupe, Oriya, Otshi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi or Sikh, Pushtoo or Afghan, Rarotongan, Reval Esthonian, Romaic, Rumonsch or Lower Engadine, Russian, Samoan, Samogitian, Sanscrit, Santali, Sclavonic, Sechuana, Servian, Sesuto, or Basuto, Sindhi, Singhalese, Sirenian, Spanish, Surinam or Negro Dutch, Swahili, Swedish, Syriac, Tahitian, Tamil. Telegu, Temne, Tigre, Tongan, Turkish, Tyi or Chwee, Vikanera, Wallachian, Welsh, Yoruba.

Bible, Dutch. [A portion of the Old Testament and of the Apocrypha. Translated from the Latin Vulgate.] 1477. Fol. B.L. *First edition of any portion of the Holy Bible in Dutch.*

Bible. The Holy Bible, containing the Old Testament and the New. Cambridge, John Baskerville. 1763. Fol.

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Bibliographiana, by a Society of Gentlemen; originally published in the "Manchester Exchange Herald" in 1815 and 1816. Manch., Joseph Aston. 8vo. *Only 24 copies printed. This copy contains the names of contributors added in MS.*

Black-letter ballads. 2 vols.

Brydges, Sir S. Egerton. The Sylvan Wanderer; consisting of a series of moral, sentimental, and critical essays. Printed at the private press of Lee Priory, 1813. 8vo. *The editions of the various works issued from the* [*Lee Priory*] *Press were purposely limited to a small number of copies, and were sold by the printers to book-collectors at high prices.*" *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

Calvin, John. Sermons of Maister John Caluin, vpon the Booke of Iob. Translated out of French by Arthur Golding. Lond. 1584. Fol.

Chaucer, Geoffrey. The workes of Geffrey Chaucer, newlie printed, with diuers addicions, whiche were neuer in print before; with the siege and destruccion of the worthy citee of Thebes, compiled by John Lidgate, monk of Berie. Lond., 1561. Fol. *Black letter. Edited by John Stowe.*

Collier, John. The miscellaneous works of Tim Bobbin, Esq. Manch., 1819. 8vo. *With MS. and other additions by Jesse Lee.*

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Corry, John. History of Lancashire. Lond. 1825. 4to. 2 vols. *With MS. and other additions by Jesse Lee.*

Dante Alighieri. L'Inferno di Dante Alighieri disposto in ordine grammaticale e corredato di brevi dichiarazioni da G. G. Warren, Lord Vernon. Londra. 1858-65. 3 vols. Fol. *Only a limited number of copies issued for private circulation. Some of the most distinguished artists and men of letters in Italy were occupied for 20 years in its preparation. Dict. Nat. Biog.*, vol. 58, p. 276.

Dante Alighieri. Le prime quattro edizioni della Divina Commedia letteralmente ristampate per cura di G. G. Warren, Lord Vernon. Londra. 1858. Fol.

Bailey, J. E. The Life of Thomas Fuller, D. D., with notices of his books, his kinsmen, and his friends. Lond. 1874. 8vo. *Bound in 3 vols., with numerous MS. and other additions by the Author. Also* Proof-sheets of part of the "Life," with author's corrections and annotations. *Also* Collection of letters, transcripts, cuttings, and memoranda relating to Fuller's life and works.

Dee, Dr. John. Diary for the years 1595-1601. Edited, from the original MSS. in the Bodleian Library, by John Eglington Bailey. 1880. Not published. 20 copies printed. *With MS. and other additions by J. E. Bailey.*

Dibdin, T. F. Specimen Bibliothecæ Britannicæ, Specimen of a digested catalogue of rare, curious, and useful books in the English language. Lond. 1808. 8vo. *Only 40 copies printed. Presentation copy to Wm. Ford, Manchester, from the Author. With many MS. notes by Ford.*

Drayton, Michael. Poemes lyrick and pastorall, odes, eglogs, the Man in the Moone. Lond., printed by R. B., for N. L. and I. Flasket. [1605.] 12mo. *55 leaves unnumbered. Only two other copies of this book were known to exist when Lowndes published his Manual; but Hazlitt mentions five perfect copies, and that two or three more or less imperfect copies also exist.*

Eaton Chronicle; or, the Salt Box. 1789. 8vo. *While a large party was staying at Eaton Hall in 1788 a MS. Journal was established and read at breakfast. The sub-title arose from the contributions being placed in a salt-box. The journal was afterwards printed, as above.*

[Fabyan, Robert. Fabyan's Cronycle newly prynted, wyth the cronycle, actes, dedes done in the tyme of Henry the VII., etc.] Lond. W. Rastell. 1533. Fol. *Incomplete.*

Florence Miscellany. [By Mrs. Piozzi, Bertie Greatheed, Robert Merry, William Parsons.] Florence. 1785. 8vo. *With autograph MS. poem by Wm. Parsons inserted. A "Della Cruscan" production; ridiculed in Gifford's "Baviad" and "Mæviad."*

Foxe, John. Acts and monuments of these latter and perillous dayes, touching matters of the Church, wherein are comprehended and described the great persecutions and horrible troubles that have been wrought and practised by the Romish prelates, especiallye in this realme of Englande and Scotlande. Lond., by John Daye. 1562-3. Fol. *Black letter. First edition, with plates and woodcuts. Wanting signatures A, B, C5, and 14 leaves of the index.*

Foxe, John. Acts and monuments of the Christian martyrs, and matters ecclesiasticall, passed in the Church of Christ from the primitive beginning to these our daies. Lond. 1583. Fol. *2nd edition, partly black letter, with woodcuts. Wants the title-page and last leaf of the table.*

Goussancourt, F. M. de. Le Martyrologe des Chevaliers de S. Jean de Hiervsalem. Paris. 1654. Fol. 2 vols.

Guevara, Antony of. The dial of princes. Englished by Thomas North, and nowe newly revised and corrected by hym. Lond. 1582. Fol. *Black letter. A perfect copy of a rare and curious book. An adaptation from the "Meditations" of Marcus Aurelius.*

Heyrick, Richard. A Sermon preached at the Collegiate Church at Manchester, on Tuesday, the 23 of April. 1661. Being the Coronation Day of his Royal Majestie, Charles II. Lond. 1661. Sm. 4to.

Heyrick, Richard. [Petition to Charles I. "of divers [of] His Majesties faithfull subjects of the true Protestant religion, within the County Palatine of Lancaster."] *Presented to the King at York, May 31, 1642.*

Heyrick, Richard. Three Sermons preached at the Collegiate Church in Manchester. Lond. 1641. 12mo.

Horace. Satira V. Traduzione Italiana, con rami allusivi. Parma. 1818. 4to. *Printed at the expense of Elizabeth, Duchess of Devonshire (1759-1824), by the widow of Bodoni, with engravings by Caraccioli. "One of the finest works issued by [the Bodoni] press."* *Dict. Nat. Biog.*, ix., 344.

Ireland, William Henry. Miscellaneous papers and legal documents under the hand and seal of William Shakspeare...from the original MSS. in the possession of Samuel Ireland. Lond. 1796. Fol. *A copy of the original subscription edition of facsimiles of the Shakespeare forgeries of W. H. Ireland.*

Jefferson, Thomas. Notes on the State of Virginia; written in the year 1781. Privately printed, 1782. *Autograph presentation copy to Dr. McMahon.*

King, Edward, Viscount Kingsborough. Antiquities of Mexico, comprising fac-similes of ancient Mexican paintings and hieroglyphics preserved in [various libraries]. ... The drawings, on stone, by A. Aglio. Lond. 1831-48. Fol. 9 vols. *A magnificent work. The first 7 vols. cost King upwards of £32,000 and his life. Oppressed with debt, he was arrested at the suit of a paper manufacturer, and lodged in the Sheriff's prison, Dublin, where he died of typhus fever on 27th February, 1837.* *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

Lancashire. Fragments, consisting of Portraits, Views, Scraps, &c. relating to Lancashire. Collected by Jesse Lee. 4to.

Lee, Jesse. Notes on Collier's "Human Passions Delineated." 8vo. 2 vols.

London. A Collection of the Names of the Merchants in and about London. Lond. 1677. 16mo. *The first London Directory. Very rare. Contains the autograph of Thomas Hearne, the antiquary.*

Lucian. Lvciani Dialogi et alia mvlta. ...Venetiis in ædibus Aldi et Andreæ Asulani. 1522. Fol. *Greek.*

Milton, John. Poems of Mr. John Milton, both English and Latin, compos'd at several times. Lond. 1645. 12mo. *With portrait; a fine copy.*

Milton, John. Paradise Lost. A poem, in ten books. The author, John Milton. Lond. Printed by S. Simmons, and are to be sold by T. Helder, at the Angel in Little Brittain, 1669. Sm. 4to. *First edition, with seventh title-page.*

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Voragine. The Golden Legend. 1892. 2 vols.
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Rossetti. Hand and Soul. 1895.
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Laudes Beatae Mariae Virginis. 1896.
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Ormerod, George. History of the County Palatine and the City of Chester. Lond. 1819. Fol. 3 vols. *With 6 additional vols. of riders, being collections for a new edition, by Thos. Helsby.*

[Penry, John.] A briefe discovery of the vntrvthes and slanders (against the trve gouernment of the Church of Christ) contained in a sermon preached the 8 of Februarie, 1588, by D[octor Richard] Bancroft, and since that time set forth in print, with additions by the said authour. This short answer may serve for the clearing of the truth vntill a larger confutation of the sermon be published. 4to. *One of the Mar-Prelate Tracts, by their chief author and printer, and being secretly printed is exceedingly rare.*

Primer in Englishe and Latyn, set foorth by the Kynges maiestie and his clergie to be taught, learned, and read: and none other to be vsed throughout all his dominions. Lond. Richard Grafton, 1545. Sm. 4to.

Raffald, Elizabeth. The Manchester Directory for the year 1772. Lond. 8vo. *The first Manchester Directory: this copy has the paper covers.*

Salvianus (*Bishop of Massilia*). Quis Diues Saluus. How a rich man may be saved. . . . Translated into English by N. T. [*i.e.* Joseph Cresswell]. [Lond.] 1618. 18mo. "[*This*] *book, no doubt printed for circulation amongst the proscribed Roman Catholics at home, and the refugees on the Continent, is now a rare one, and has not been described by English bibliographers.*"

Selden, John. Table Talk: being the discourses of John Selden . . relating especially to religion and state. Lond. 1689. 4to. *First edition.*

Shakespeare, William. Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, published according to the true originall coppies. The second impression. Lond. 1632. Fol. *John Philip Kemble's copy. It presents the same singularity as that noticed by H. G. Bohn in Lowndes'* "*Bibliographer's Manual,*" 1863, *namely, the word spelt* "*coppies.*"

Shakespeare, William. Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies, published according to the true original copies, unto which is added seven plays never before printed in folio. . . The fourth edition. Lond. 1685. Fol.

Shelley, Percy Bysshe. Posthumous Poems. [Edited by Mrs. Shelley.] Lond. 1824. 8vo.

Spenser, Edmund. The Faerie Queen: The shepheards calendar; together with the other works of England's arch-poët, Edm. Spenser. . . Lond. 1611. Fol.

Taylor, John. All the workes of John Taylor, the water-poet. Being sixty and three in number. Collected into one volume by the author: with sundry new additions corrected, revised and newly imprinted. . . Lond. 1630. Fol. *This goodly but disorderly folio, which had to be set up at the presses of four different printers, . . has long been a bibliographical rarity. Dict. Nat. Biog.*

Walpole, H., 4th Earl of Orford. Miscellaneous Antiquities. Nos. 1 and 2. Strawberry Hill, 1772. 4to. *Printed at Walpole's famous private printing press at Strawberry Hill. Contains the following MS. note by Mark Noble, author of* "*The Protectorate House of Cromwell*":—"*This was presented to me by the late Earl of Orford. There were no more numbers printed than the two here given.*"

Wither, George. A Collection of Emblemes, ancient and moderne: quickened with metricall illvstrations, both morall and divine, and disposed into lotteries. . . Lond. 1634-35. Fol.

Wither, George. Life. From Wilmott's "Lives of sacred poets." *With MS. annotations and additions, and other printed matter and portraits.*

Yuille, R. Mashy Saün Belek. 1837. 4to. *In the Mongolian language. Mr. Yuille (who was a Scotchman), in a manuscript account, says he made the press on which the book was printed, also the matrices, and cast two founts of type, one Mongolian the other Thibetan. The only help he had was rendered by his Mongolian pupils and workmen.*

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The following is a list of some of the more valuable illustrated works :—

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Anderson, W. Pictorial Arts of Japan. 1886.

Andrews, H. C. Coloured Engravings of Heaths. 1802. 3 vols.

Angas, G. F. New Zealanders. 1847.

Antiquities de l'Empire de Russie. 1849-53. 6 vols.

Armstrong, W. Gainsborough: his place in English Art. 1898.

Arte Italiana. Decorative e industriale. 1890-96. 5 vols.

Asselineau, C. Armes et Armures. 1845.

Audsley, G. A. Art of Chromo-Lithography. 1883.

—— Ornamental Arts of Japan. 1882-4. 2 vols.

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—— Catalogue of Birds. 1874-95. 27 vols.
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Waring, J. B. Masterpieces of industrial art and sculpture. 1863. 3 vols.

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Wild, C. English and foreign cathedrals. 1831.

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Zahn, W. Ornamente Klassischen. 1870.

—— Pompeii and Herculaneum. 1829. 2 vols.

HOW TO OBTAIN BOOKS.

To obtain books to read in the Reference Library it is necessary to write on a slip, furnished for the purpose, the name and address of the applicant, together with the title and number of the book required. These latter should be obtained from the catalogue, which consists of three volumes, the first two containing a detailed description of the books in the library up to the end of the year 1879. The third is an alphabetical index of authors and subjects to the other two, and is the only one provided for general use. This arrangement was necessitated by the entries in the second volume having been printed as the books were received, and therefore without alphabetical order. For the additions to the library since 1879, several manuscript volumes are provided. The arrangement in them is the same as in the index volume of the catalogue.

As a supplement to the manuscript index, there is issued a quarterly list of additions to the Reference Library classified according to the Dewey system. This list of additions appears in the *Manchester Public Free Libraries Quarterly Record*, which is now in its third year of issue, having been commenced early in 1897. Besides the classified list of additions the *Quarterly Record* has contained a catalogue of the Alexander Ireland Collection of the Works of Hazlitt, &c., reading lists on topics of current interest such as Strikes, Cuba, and

English Art, an annotated list of books relating to Cromwell, and occasional articles descriptive of interesting additions to the library.

Assistance to readers in the use of the catalogues, or for other purposes, will be readily afforded by the officers and attendants. Pens and ink are supplied for the purpose of making notes or extracts, but their use for private correspondence is contrary to the regulations.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES.

The library possesses also a good collection of bibliographies, catalogues, and other works likely to be of use to readers in their search for information. A few of the more important books of this class are here named :—

British Museum, Catalogue of Printed Books.

—— Catalogue of Printed Maps, Plants, and Charts. 2 vols. 1885.

—— Subject Index of Modern Books, added in 1880-95.

—— Catalogue of Early English Books to 1640. 3 vols.

—— Catalogue of Books in the Galleries in the Reading Room. 1886.

Bodleian Library, Oxford, Catalogue. 4 vols. 1849-54.

Trinity College, Dublin, Catalogue. 9 vols.

Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, Catalogue. 7 vols.

Boston Athenæum Library, Catalogue. 5 vols.

Peabody Institute Library, Baltimore, Catalogue.

Brooklyn Library, Catalogue. 1881.

Birmingham Free Library, Catalogue.

Liverpool Free Library, Catalogue.

Hain, Repertorium Bibliographicum (books before 1500). 4 vols. 1826-38.

Brunet, Manual du Libraire et Supplement. 8 vols. 1860-80

Graesse, Trésor de Livres rares et précieux. 7 vols. 1859-69.

Huth Library, Catalogue (early and rare books). 5 vols. 1880.

Watt's Bibliotheca Britannica. 4 vols.

Lowndes' Bibliographical Manual of English Literature. New Edition by H. G. Bohn. 6 vols.

Low's English Catalogue. 1832-98. With Indexes.
Querard, La France Littéraire. 12 vols.
—— Littérature Française Contemporaine. 6 vols.
Lorenz, Libraire Française. 1840-90. 12 vols.
The American Catalogue. 5 vols.
Hinrich's Fünfjahriger Bücher-Catalog. 1850-95.
Halkett and Laing, Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature.
Cushing, Initials and Pseudonyms. 2 vols. 1886.
—— Anonyms. 1889.
Poole's Index of Periodical Literature and Supplements.
Sonnenshein, Best Books. 1891.
—— Readers' Guide. 1895.
Whitaker's Reference Catalogue.
Allibone, Dictionary of English Literature. 1859-91. 5 vols.
Boston Public Library, Sundry Catalogues.
Bibliographie Nationale Bélge. 4 vols.

Many bibliographies of special subjects will be found in the general catalogues, and the reader may find it convenient to refer to the "Hand-List of Bibliographies, Classified Catalogues and Indexes, placed in the Reading Room of the British Museum," to the heading "Bibliography" in the Birmingham and Wigan Free Library catalogues; and to the various lists in the "Library Journal."

The books are arranged on the shelves on the "decimal" system of classification originated by Mr. Melvil Dewey of Amherst, U.S.A. When the library was opened the books were placed on the shelves in broad classes according to a fixed location scheme devised by Mr. Edwards, but shortly after the removal of the library to its present location this classification began to break down and eventually became absolutely useless. It was therefore decided in 1894, to reclassify the whole collection on Mr. Dewey's method, which, although somewhat complicated, works well in practice, and has been of considerable advantage to readers, and to the Staff.

Readers may recommend books which they consider suitable for placing in the library, and for this purpose a printed form can be obtained at the desk. These recommendations are submitted to the Committee at their ensuing monthly meeting.

GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY AND USE OF THE BOOKS.

Reference Library.	Number of Volumes.	Books Used.
1st Year, 1852-3	15744	61080
5th „ 1856-7	25858	82158
10th „ 1861-2	31604	127669
15th „ 1866-7	39264	112132
20th „ 1871-2	46614	82654
21st „ 1872-3	50508	95908
22nd „ 1873-4	52540	81594
23rd „ 1874-5	53821	67560
24th „ 1875-6	55273	61213
25th „ 1876-7	56480	37320
26th „ 1877-8	58554	63957
27th „ 1878-9	61171	173137
28th „ 1879-80	63772	186448
29th „ 1880-1	67700	203194
30th „ 1881-2	70320	210195
31st „ 1882-3	73308	252648
32nd „ 1883-4	75997	278876
33rd „ 1884-5	78551	283232
34th „ 1885-6	81930	294444
35th „ 1886-7	84064	278558
36th „ 1887-8	86654	305765
37th „ 1888-9	90573	336058
38th „ 1889-90	92942	307785
39th „ 1890-1	95399	284829
40th „ 1891-2	97739	323453
41st „ 1892-3	99845	297827
42nd „ 1893-4	102806	339894
43rd „ 1894-5	104692	416100
44th „ 1895-6	107449	419949
45th „ 1896-7	110358	437798
46th „ 1897-8	114630	440442

THE LENDING LIBRARIES.

THE twelve lending libraries are named and situated as follows :—

Deansgate ; in Deansgate.
Hulme ; Stretford Road.
Ancoats ; Every Street.
Rochdale Road ; Livesey Street, Rochdale Road.
Chorlton and Ardwick ; Rusholme Road.
Cheetham ; York Street, Cheetham.
Newton Heath ; Oldham Road.
Rusholme ; Dickenson Road.
Longsight ; Stockport Road.
Gorton ; Belle Vue Street.
Openshaw ; Ashton Old Road.
Moston ; Moston Lane.

Each of these libraries contains a lending library, news-room, and boys' room, except that at Moston, where a boys' room has not yet been provided. The lending departments are furnished with books of a standard character in every department of literature, and their interest is maintained by a regular supply of the best new books. Any person may recommend books for addition to the library, and a form for the purpose can be obtained on application. In each library there is a special collection

of music, and in the Deansgate Branch one of books for the blind. Catalogues on the index system are provided, ranging in price from 3d. to 6d. each. Instructions for obtaining books to read at home are given on page 233. Books may also be obtained to read in the newsrooms, during the whole time that they are open, by signing a ticket provided for the purpose. The lending departments are open from 8-30 a.m. to 9-0 p.m. every day except Saturday, when they are closed at 5-0 p.m., and they are also closed on Sunday.

The newsrooms are provided with a large number of newspapers and periodicals for perusal. The following is a list of those supplied at the present time, June, 1899:

PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS TAKEN IN THE BRANCH LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

In cases where the Serials are not taken at every Library and Reading Room, the initials of the Branches to which they are supplied are appended.

A.	Ancoats	D.	Deansgate	M.	Moston
B.	Bradford	G.	Gorton	NH.	Newton Heath
Che.	Cheetham	Har.	Harpurhey	O.	Openshaw
CR.	Chester Road	Hul.	Hulme	RR.	Rochdale Road
Cho.	Chorlton	HR.	Hyde Road	R.	Rusholme
Cr.	Crumpsall	L.	Longsight		

Aberdeen Free Press (Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Aberystwyth Observer (Hul.)
Academy (Cho. D. Hul. L. O. R.)
Accountant (A. Che. Cho. Cr. D. G. Har, Hul. HR. NH. O. R.)
African Review (R.)
Alliance News (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Hul, L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Anglo-Californian (R).
Animal World (All Branches except Cr. Har. M.)
Animal's Friend (Har.)
Architectural Review (O.)
Argosy (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Arms and Explosives (D.)
Army and Navy Gazette (A. Che. CR. Cho. D. G. Hul. NH. O. RR. R.)
Army List Monthly (A. Che. CR. Cho. D. G. Hul. HR. RR.)
Ashton-under-Lyne Reporter (G. L. NH. O.)
Assure (D.)
Athenæum (All Branches except B. Cr. M.)
Atlantic Monthly (D. Hul. RR.)
Awake (A. Cho. D. Hul.)
Band of Hope Review (A. Che. CR. Cho. D. G. Hul. HR. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Banner of Israel (Che. Har.)
Banner and Times of Wales (Cho. Hul.)
Belfast News Letter (A. Che. CR. Cho. D. G. Hul. O. RR.)
Bible Advocate (All Branches)
Bible Society Gleanings for the Young (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)

Bible Society Monthly Reporter (A. Che. Cho. Hul. D. RR.)
Bimetallist (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Birmingham Daily Gazette (A. Che. CR. Cho. D. Har. Hul. HR. L. NH. RR. R.)
Birmingham Daily Post (All Branches except B. Har. M.)
Birmingham Weekly Mercury (D.)
Black and White (All Branches.)
Blackley Guardian (Har. M. NH.)
Blackwood's Magazine (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Boiler Explosions (A. Che. D. Hul. RR.)
Bookman (Che. D. G. Hul. O.)
Boy's Own Paper (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Bradford (Manchester) Reporter (B.)
Bradford (Yorks.) Observer (D.)
Bradshaw's Railway Guide (*See* Railway Guide)
British Trade Journal (D.)
British Weekly (All Branches except Cr. M.)
British Workman (All Branches except B. Cr. Har. M.)
Broad Arrow (Che. CR. Cho. D. G. Hul. HR. L. RR.)
Builder (A. B. Che. Cho. D. G. Har. Hul. HR.)
Builders' Reporter (D.)
Building News (A. CR. D. G. Hul. L. M. O. RR. R.)
Building World (RR.)
Cabinet Maker (A. Cho. D. G. O.)
Cambrian News (Che. Hul.)
Canadian Gazette (G.)
Cape Argus (D.)
Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald (Cho. D. Har. Hul.)
Carpenter and Builder (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Cassell's Family Magazine (All Branches)
Cassell's Saturday Journal (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Catholic Fireside (G. NH. RR.)
Catholic Missions (A. Hul. RR.)
Catholic Times (All Branches except Cr. M. NH.)
Century Magazine (All Brauches except Cr. M.)
Chambers's Journal (All Branches)
Chatterbox (All Branches except Cr. Har. M.)
Chemical News (B. D. Hul. NH.)
Child's Guardian (D.)
Children's Friend (All Branches except Cr. Har. M.)
Children's World (A. Cho. D. Hul.)
Chorley Guardian (NH.)
Christian Budget (RR.)
Christian World (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Chums (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Church Missionary Gleaner (A. B. Che. CR. Cho. Cr. D. Har. Hul. HR. RR.)
Church Missionary Iutelligencer (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Church of England Temperance Chronicle (All Branches.)
Church Weekly (D.)
Civil Service Aspirant (Che.)
Civil Service Competitor (Che. Hul.)
Civil Service Examiner (A. Cho. D. Hul. NH. RR.)
Civil Service Monthly (Hul.)
Clarion (HR.)
Cole's Excursion List (A.)
Colliery Guardian (B. D.)
Contemporary Review (A. Che. Cho. D. Har. Hul. L. NH. RR. R.)
Contract Journal (D. L.)
Cook's Excursionist (A. Che. D. Hul. R.)
Co-operative News (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Hul. RR.)
Cork Examiner (A. Hul.)
Cornhill Magazine (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Cottager and Artisan (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Cotton (All Branches)
Country Sport (B.)
Cow-keeper and Dairyman's Journal (D.)
Crumpsall Guardian (Che. Cr.)
Daily Chronicle (All branches except B. G. M.)
Daily Graphic (All Branches)
Daily News (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Daily Telegraph (All Branches)
Deceased Seamen (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. NH. RR.)
Deliveier (D.)
Draper's Record (A. B. Che. Cho. D. Har. Hul. HR. RR.)
Educational Times (NH. R.)
Electrical Review (Hul.)
Engineer (All Branches except Cr. M. R.)
Engineering (A. B. Che. CR. D. G. Hul. HR. L. O. R.)

English Churchman (M. O. RR.)
English Illustrated Magazine (All Branches)
English Mechanic (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Era (Cho. Hul.)
Estates Gazette (A. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Evening Student (All Branches)
Faith of our Fathers (RR.)
Family Friend (A.)
Family Herald (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Farm, Field, and Fireside (D. NH.)
Field (CR. Cho. D. Hul. L. O.)
Fire and Water (NH.)
Foresters' Miscellany (NH.)
Fortnightly Review (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Free Russia (A. B. Cho. D. Har. Hul. HR. NH.)
Free Sunday Advocate (Cho.)
Freeman's Journal (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Fruit Grower (D.)
Furniture and Decoration (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Gardeners' Chronicle (CR. Cho. Har. Hul. HR. M. R.)
Gardening (A. D. R.)
Gazette and News (R.)
Gentlewoman (All Branches except CR. G. M.)
Geography (D.)
Girl's Own Paper (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Glad Tidings (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Glasgow Herald (A. B. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Good Templar's Watchword (Cho.)
Good Words (All except Cr. M.)
Gorton Reporter (G. HR. L. O.)
Graphic (All Branches)
Grocers' Review (All Branches except M.)
Guardian (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Har. Hul. L. O. RR.)
Gwalia (Hul.)
Harper's Magazine (All Branches except B.)
Health News (G.)
Hereford Times (Cho.)
House (NH.)
Hollandia (Har.)
Idler (Hul.)
Illustrated London News (All Branches.)
Incorporated Accountants' Journal (Cho.)
India Rubber Trade Journal (Cr.)
Industries and Iron (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul.)
Inquirer (A. Che. D. Hul. HR. L. RR.)
Insurance Agent and Review (A. Cho. D. Hul. HR. RR.)
Insurance and Banking Review (RR.)
Invention (Hul.)
Inventor's Record (Hul.)
Inventor's Review (A. Cho. D. G. Har. L. M. NH. R.)
Irish Daily Independent (RR.)
Irish Times (All Branches except B. Cr. Har. M.)
Iron and Coal Trades' Review (D. Hul.)
Iron and Steel Trades' Journal (Cho.)
Jewish Chronicle (Che.)
Jewish Missionary Gleaner (Che.)
Jewish Missionary Intelligence (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. L. RR.)
Jewish World (Che.)
Journal of the Clerk of Works Association (D.)
Journal of Gas Lighting (NH.)
Judy (A. Che. Cho. G. Hul. HR.)
Juvenile Magazine (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. L. RR. R.)
Juvenile Rechabite (All Branches)
Knitter's Circular (D.)
Knowledge (A. CR. D. Har. NH. O.)
Labour Gazette (A. B. Che. Cho. D. Har. Hul. HR. L. NH. R.)
Labour News (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Lady's Realm (A. Che. Cho. Cr. D. G. Hul. HR. L M. NH. O. R.
Lancet (Cho. Hul. R.)
Land and Water (Che. D. Hul. RR. R.)
Laundry News (Che.)
Leeds Mercury (All Branches except Cr. Har. M.)
Leisure Hour (All Branches.)
Liberator (A. B. Cho. D. Har. Hul. HR. RR.)
Light in the Home (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Literary Guide (HR. RR.)
Literary World (Hul.)
Little Folks (All Branches except B. Cr. Har. M.)
Liverpool Daily Courier (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Hul. L. RR.)

Liverpool Daily Post (Cho. D. G. NH. O. R.)
Liverpool Mercury (A. B. Che. CR. Cr. D. Har. Hul. HR. L. O. RR.)
Local Government Journal (NH.)
London Tailor (O.)
Longman's Magazine (A. Che. D. G. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Machinery (CR. Hul.)
Machinery Market (A. L. RR. R.)
Macmillan's Magazine (A. Che. CR. Cho. D. Har. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Madame (R.)
Magazine of Art (A. Che. Cho. Cr. D. G. Hul. L. M. NH. O. RR. R.)
Manchester City News (All Branches.)
Manchester Courier (All Branches.)
Manchester Entertainments Programme (All Branches except CR. Cr. HR. M.)
Manchester Evening Chronicle (All Branches.)
Manchester Evening Mail (All Branches.)
Manchester Evening News (All Branches)
Manchester Faces and Places (A. Che. Cho. Cr. D. G. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Manchester Guardian (All Branches)
Manchester Health Returns (All Branches)
Manchester Quarterly (All Branches except B. Cr. M.)
Manchester Weekly Times (All Branches)
Mariner (CR. D. G. H. O.)
Mark Lane Express (B.)
Melia's Magazine (A. Che. Hul. R.)
Messenger (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Midland Counties Herald (D. Hul.)
Mining Engineering (A. B. Che. CR. Cho. D.)
Mission Field (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Month (RR.)
Monthly Journal of Society of Musicians (Che.)
Monthly Reporter (Cho. Hul.)
Morning Post (Che. Hul. O.)
Musical Herald (Che. D. Hul.)
Musical Times (All Branches except B. Cr. M.)
National Church (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Nature (Che. D. Hul. L. NH. RR. R.)
New Church Magazine (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. L. M. O. RR. R.)
Newcastle Chronicle (D. RR.)
Nineteenth Century (All Branches except B. M.)
Northern Churchman (O.)
Notes and Queries (L.)
Nottingham Express (Che.)
Odd-Fellows Magazine (A. D. Har. Hul. NH. RR.)
Optical Magic Lantern Journal (Che. G.)
Our Own Gazette (A. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Owens College Union Magazine (RR.)
Pall Mall Gazette (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Pall Mall Magazine (All Branches except M.)
Pearsons Magazine (Cr. M.)
Personal Rights (D.)
Phonetic Journal (All Branches except B. Cr. Har. M. RR.)
Pitman's Shorthand Weekly (CR.)
Poor Law Officers' Journal (G.)
Positivist Review (A. B. Che. D. Har. Hul. HR. NH. R.)
Post (Hul.)
Post Magazine and Insurance Gazette (Cho.)
Preston Guardian (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Preston Herald (Cho.)
Printers' Engineer (D.)
Printers' Register (D.)
Property List (A. B. Che. Cho. D. Hul. HR. R.)
Public Health Engineer (G.)
Punch (All Branches)
Queen (All Branches except B. RR.)
Quiver (All Branches except B. Cr. Har. M.)
Railway Guide, Bradshaw (All Branches)
Railway Guide, Heywood (A. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Railway Guide, Sim's (Cho. D. RR.)
Railway News (Cho. G.)
Railway Review (A. Cho. Har. L. NH.)
Railway Timetable, Caledonian Railway (D. Hul.)
—— Cheshire Lines (Cho. Cr. D. Hul. L. RR. R.)
—— Great Central (A. Che. Cho. Cr. D. Hul. HR. L. RR.)
—— Great Northern (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. HR. RR.)

Railway Timetable Great Western (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Har. Hul. L. NH. RR. R.)
—— Lancashire and Yorkshire (A. Che. Cho. Cr. D. Hul. HR. RR.)
—— London, Chatham, and Dover (D.)
—— London and North Western (A. Che. Cho. Cr. D. G. Hul. HR. L. NH. RR. R.)
—— Midland (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. HR. L. RR. R.)
—— North British (D.)
—— North Eastern (Che. Cr.)
Reading Mercury (Hul.)
Rechabite and Temperance Magazine (All Branches)
Reporters' Magazine (Cho.)
Review of Reviews (All Branches)
Rhondda Post (Har.)
Rochdale Observer (Che. Cho. Cr.)
Rural World (NH.)
St. James's Gazette (A. CR. Cr. Cho. D. G. Hul. HR. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
St. Nicholas (All Branches except B. Cr. Har. M.)
Sales and Wants Advertiser (D.)
Salford Chronicle (Che. D.)
Saturday Review (All Branches except B. Har. M.)
Schoolmaster (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Science Gossip (Hul.)
Scientific American and Supplement (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Scotsman (All Branches except B. Cr. M.)
Scribner's Magazine (All Branches except B. CR. Cr. M.)
Script Phonographic Journal (All Branches)
Sheffield Daily Telegraph (A. Che. Cho. D. Har. Hul. NH. O. RR. R.)
Shepherds' Magazine (A. B. Che. CR. Cho. D. Har. Hul. HR. NH. RR.)
Shorthand Magazine (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. O. RR.)
Skegness Herald (D.)
Sketch (All Branches except M.)
Son of Temperance (All Branches)
South Wales Daily News (Cho.)
South Manchester Chronicle (L. R.)
Speaker (Che. Cr. D. G. Hul. L. M. O. RR. R.)
Spectator (All Branches except B. CR.)
Staffordshire Sentinel (O.)
Standard (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Stationery Trades' Journal (Hul.)
Stationery World (NH.)
Stock and Share News (A.)
Strand Magazine (All Branches)
Sunday (All Branches except B. Cr. Har. M.)
Sunday at Home (All Branches)
Sunday Magazine (All Branches except B. Cr. Har. M.)
Sunshine (A. Che. CR. Cho. D. G. Hul. HR. O. RR.)
Tablet (A. Che. D. G. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Temple Bar (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Textile Mercury (All Branches except (CR. Cr. Har. M.)
Textile Recorder (A. Che. Cho. D. Hul. RR.)
Times (All Branches except M.)
Tool and Machinery Register (A. B. CR. Che. Cho. D. G. Hul. HR. NH. O. RR.)
Tract Magazine (Hul. RR.)
Trade and Industry (O.)
Trade Journals Review (D. Hul.)
Travel (A. D. Hul.)
Truth (All Branches except M.)
Tuam Herald (D.)
Two Worlds (All Branches)
University Correspondent (D. Hul.)
University Extension Journal (Che.)
Vaccination Inquirer (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Vegetarian Messenger (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Volunteer Record (Hul.)
Warehouseman and Draper (Che. Cho. D. Hul. HR. RR. R.)
Warrington Guardian (D.)
Weekly Dispatch (Cho.)
Welsh Nation (D. Hul.)
Westminster Budget (All Branches except B. CR. Cr. M.)
Westminster Gazette (All Branches except A. CR. Cr. M.)
What's On (A. Che. Cho. D. G. Hul. L. NH. O. RR. R.)
Windsor Magazine (All Branches except M.)
Woman at Home (A. Hul.)
Worcester Herald (Hul.)
Work (All Branches except Cr. M.)
World (Che. Cr. Cho. D. Hul. HR. L. NH. O. RR.)

Yorkshire Post (Cho. Hul.)
Young Days (A. Che. CR. Cho. D. G. Hul. HR. L. NH. RR. R.)
Young Man (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Y. M. C. A. Beehive (All Branches.)
Young Woman (All Branches except Cr. M.)
Zoophilist (A. Che. Cho. D. Har. Hul. NH. RR.)

Many of the periodicals are bound when the volumes are complete, and added to the stock of the library. Several newspapers are also kept on file for some time, and a directory of Manchester, list of voters, encyclopædias, and some other works of reference are provided at each library. The newsrooms are open every week-day from 8-30 a.m. to 10-0 p.m., and on Sunday from 2-0 p.m. to 9-0 p.m.

READING ROOMS.

The five reading rooms are named and situated thus—

Bradford ; Brook Street.
Harpurhey ; Queen's Park.
Hyde Road ; Hyde Road.
Chester Road ; Chester Road.
Crumpsall ; Crescent Road, Crumpsall.

They are provided with newspapers and periodicals, as detailed in the list given on page 271, and also a selection of books suitable for reading and for reference. Books can also be obtained for home reading from the Branch Library nearest to any of them on application. These rooms are kept open during the same hours as the Branch Libraries.

The reading room at Bradford occupies part of the building formerly used as the Town Hall of that township. When no longer required for that purpose, it was handed over to the Libraries Committee, and its Council Chamber was converted into a reading room. This was thrown open to the public on February 8th, 1887, Alderman Walton Smith, then Chairman of the Committee, presiding at the meeting.

Alderman Smith said the inhabitants of Bradford were by no means lacking in literary tastes, for hitherto they had been good customers of the Ancoats Branch lending library. In considering what could be done for the educational welfare of the newly added district of Bradford, the Free Libraries Committee found that the library rate of 1d. in the pound on the rateable property in Bradford produced about £200 per annum, which was much too small to permit a branch lending library being established, but they could provide the combined news and reading room, in which they were then assembled, which would entail an annual expenditure of about £200. He had much pleasure in declaring the reading room open for the use of the public.

Mr. Thewlis Johnson said he had for a long time regretted there was no place in the district where working men could read the papers in comfort, and he had no doubt the people of Bradford were grateful to the Libraries Committee for the handsome provision now made for their wants.

Alderman John Hopkinson said this was an illustration of the benefits of co-operation. On the rent of a house at 5s. a week, the cost of providing libraries amounted to 10d. a year, so that for less than a farthing a week a ratepayer of this kind had the use of the reading room and the libraries elsewhere in the city, with as much of the best literature as he and his family could get through. The more they had of such institutions the more might they expect to diminish the police expenses of the city.

Mr. W. E. A. Axon, who suggested that lectures should be given in connection with the reading room, and other gentlemen also addressed the meeting.

This Reading Room has not been so eminently successful as the other undertakings of the Libraries Committee owing doubtless to the inconvenient situation of the building. A Boys' Room was added in November, 1889, and it has been fairly well used.

On the following day, February 9th, 1887, the Harpurhey Reading Room was opened. This building was

erected from designs by Mr. John Allison, then City Surveyor, at a cost of £400. The site is within the Queen's Park near to the principal entrance, and was given by the Parks Committee. The building consists of a large, well-lit room with two smaller ones for the attendants, all being on the same floor. There is accommodation for about 200 readers, and the usual newspapers, magazines, and books of reference are provided. The opening ceremony was held in the room, Alderman Walton Smith presiding.

Alderman Smith said he was aware that some people were not satisfied with the exterior of the building, and had written letters to the press not very commendatory of the Libraries Committee. He thought his audience would agree with him, however, when he said the interior was pleasant and agreeable, and trusted that the work carried on there would give both recreation and education. That they had not a larger and better building was simply due to the expenses incidental to the administration of the lending libraries. They found that the expenses of that room would amount to £200 yearly. From a penny rate Harpurhey did not contribute £100. He then declared the room open.

Councillor Harry Rawson said the present room was one of the first fruits from their junction with Manchester. It could hardly be called a very great boon, but it was a very fair beginning of a vigorous shoot, which he hoped would strike its roots deep in the earth and flourish so well that the Committee would find it necessary to transplant it where it might get more light and air.

Mr. Geo. Milner also spoke and advocated the delivery of short lectures on books, and the placing in the room the volumes of Cassell's National Library.

The Hyde Road Reading Room was inaugurated on May 7th, 1888, by public meeting held in the room.

The Mayor, Alderman (since Sir) John James Harwood, in declaring the building open, said it must be a great gratification to the Council and to the Libraries Committee particularly, to know how deeply these reading

rooms and libraries were appreciated by the inhabitants of Manchester. The total number of visits to all the libraries for all purposes during last year was 4,178,400. Had anyone prophesied fifty years ago that there would have been over 4,000,000 visits to free libraries in a year, he would have been set down as a person given to exaggeration. In 1877-8, the first year that the Committee were able to open reading rooms for boys, the juvenile visitors numbered 21,424; while in 1886-7, the last year for which they had the statistics, the number had increased to 350,800. He hoped they would look upon that reading room as something sacred, that they would try to induce others to visit the room, and that they would make a proper and profitable and good use of the newspapers and books which would be provided for them by the Council. He desired to compliment the Libraries Committee on the efficient way in which they had done their work, and he hoped Mr. Alderman Smith and his colleagues would be long spared to carry on this good work at such a small cost, and with such real satisfaction to the inhabitants of this great, and as he trusted what was destined to be, the greater city of Manchester.

Alderman Walton Smith, Chairman of the Free Libraries Committee said that probably many of those present would remember that that building was formerly a Primitive Methodist Chapel, but the Libraries Committee had so adapted it as to make it eminently useful for the large population in the neighbourhood as a library and reading room. They had purchased the chapel for £600, and the cost of furnishing and adapting the building had increased this amount to £1,300. The Council had observed with pleasure how the libraries were appreciated by the public, and had noted with equal pleasure that there was no grumbling at the expense which had been incurred in this behalf. When they next applied to Parliament for a bill they intended to introduce a clause which would enable them to spend more than one penny in the pound for library purposes.

On the motion of Mr. Alderman Bennett, seconded by Councillor Chesters Thompson and supported by Councillor Hinchliffe, a vote of thanks was passed to the

Mayor. The Mayor briefly replied, and then moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his unceasing efforts in developing the library system in Manchester, and for his conduct in the chair that evening. Councillor Schou seconded the motion, and said he was sure Mr. Smith and his Committee would do all in their power to extend the usefulness of free libraries throughout the city of Manchester. Prior to declaring the library open the Mayor addressed a large number of boys who had assembled to meet him in the boys' reading room in the basement. At the close of his remarks a vote of thanks, moved and seconded by two of the boys, was heartily accorded to his Worship.

The building was formerly a chapel belonging to the Primitive Methodist body, and was altered for its present purpose from designs by Mr. John Allison. The public reading room is a lofty and cheerful looking room, 43ft. long by 31ft. wide, and is surrounded by stands, on which the newspapers are placed. A boys' room has been constructed in the basement, being the same size as the upper floor, and 10ft high. Both floors are heated by hot-water pipes, and special attention has been paid to the ventilation.

A description of the Chester Road Reading Room, and an account of its opening have already been given. At Crumpsall the arrangements are as yet temporary, but the room has already proved remarkably popular as a delivery station.

BOYS' ROOMS.

The rooms set apart for boys are each provided with a selection of about 500 volumes of books especially suitable for perusal by them. Periodicals are also supplied, of which the following is a list :—

MONTHLY.

Band of Hope Review	Onward
British Workman	St. Nicholas
Children's Friend	Sunshine
Friendly Greetings	Welcome
Little Folks	Young Days

WEEKLY.

Boy's Own Paper	Graphic
Chatterbox	Illustrated London News
Children's Own	Sunday
Chums	Youth

These rooms are open from six p.m. to nine p.m. each evening, Sundays included.

THE LIBRARY STAFF.

The Staff consists of a Chief Librarian, Deputy Chief Librarian, a Superintendent of Branches, an Assistant Librarian of the Reference Library, eleven Librarians of the Branch Libraries (five being women), and the following 97 assistants and 43 other employees :—

REFERENCE LIBRARY—	Male Assistants	15
	Female ,,	2
	Binders	2
	Porters	4
	Cleaners	3
ANCOATS—	Female Assistants	6
	One Porter and one Cleaner	2
BRADFORD—	Female Assistants	3
	One Cleaner	1
CHEETHAM—	Female Assistants	5
	One Porter and two Cleaners	3
CHESTER ROAD—	Female Assistants	3
	One Cleaner	1
CHORLTON—	Female Assistants	8
	One Porter and one Cleaner	2
CRUMPSALL—	Female Assistants	2
	One Cleaner	1
DEANSGATE—	Female Assistants	7
	One Porter and two Cleaners	3
GORTON—	Female Assistants	5
	One Porter and one Cleaner	2
HARPURHEY—	Female Assistants	2
	One Cleaner	1

HULME—	Female Assistants.....	9
	One Porter and two Cleaners	3
HYDE ROAD—	Female Assistants.....	3
	One Cleaner	1
LONGSIGHT—	Female Assistants	6
	One Porter and one Cleaner...	2
MOSTON—	Female Assistants.....	2
	One Cleaner	1
NEWTON HEATH—	Female Assistants.....	4
	One Porter and one Cleaner...	2
OPENSHAW—	Female Assistants.....	6
	Two Porters and two Cleaners	4
ROCHDALE ROAD—	Female Assistants.....	5
	One Porter and two Cleaners	3
RUSHOLME—	Female Assistants.....	4
	One Porter and one Cleaner...	2

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

AREAS OF THE LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

Name of Library	Contents of Land in Square Yards	Dimensions of Reading Room in Feet	Area of Reading Room in Sq. Yds.	Dimensions of Library in Feet	Area of Library in Sq. Yds.	Dimensions of Boys' Reading Room in Feet	Area of Boys' Reading Room in Sq. Yds.
Reference	1294 (1193 net) not including 459 of vacant land at back.	$19\frac{1}{2} \times 44$ and $28\frac{1}{2} \times 44$, $11\frac{1}{2}$ high. (Lower Reading Rooms)	242	129×43 and $31\frac{1}{2}$, in three, 30 high. (General Reading Room)	523	...	...
Ancoats	$506\frac{7}{9}$	60×38, 30 high.	$253\frac{3}{9}$	45×19 and $35 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, 14 high.	$151\frac{4}{9}$	45×19 and 28×14, 13 high.	$138\frac{8}{9}$
Bradford	$632\frac{7}{9}$	$37\frac{1}{2} \times 27\frac{1}{2}$, 14 high.	$114\frac{5}{6}$	None.	...	...	...
Cheetham	$802\frac{1}{9}$	93×59, 30 high.	$609\frac{6}{9}$	Not Separate.	...	$63 \times 32\frac{1}{2}$, 11 high.	$227\frac{1}{2}$
Chester Road	351	54×31, 16 high (av'age)	186	...	...	54×31 and 20×15, $11\frac{1}{2}$ high.	221
Chorlton	894	63×30 without alcoves, 30 high.	210	56×31, 15 high.	$192\frac{8}{9}$	53×29, 17 high.	$170\frac{7}{9}$
Crumpsall	In Public Hall Building.	$41\frac{1}{4} \times 15\frac{3}{4}$, $9\frac{1}{2}$ high.	$72\frac{2}{9}$	...	...	...	...
Deansgate	$842\frac{1}{9}$	72×54, 30 high.	432	Not Separate.	...	36×50, 30 high, now used as a Patent Room	200
Gorton	503	Irregular Room.	343	Irregular Room.	307	Irregular Room.	290
Harpurhey	211	50×27, 14 high.	150	None.	...	None.	...
Hulme	465	$47\frac{1}{2} \times 42\frac{3}{4}$, 29 high.	$225\frac{5}{9}$	$42\frac{3}{4} \times 29\frac{1}{2}$, 17 high.	$140\frac{1}{9}$	71×31 and 30×11, 11 high.	$301\frac{8}{9}$
Hyde Road	320	$43 \times 30\frac{1}{2}$, $23\frac{3}{4}$ high. $17\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$, $19\frac{3}{4}$ high.	160	...	...	$43 \times 30\frac{1}{2}$, 10 high.	$145\frac{2}{3}$
Longsight	572	44×30, 15 high (av'age)	$146\frac{2}{3}$	31×21 and 40×14, $11\frac{1}{4}$ high.	$134\frac{5}{9}$	21×18, $11\frac{1}{4}$ high.	42
Moston	In Simpson Memorial Building.	$40 \times 21\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{3}{4}$ high.	$93\frac{1}{3}$	Not Separate.	...	...	
Newton Heath	In Technical School Building.	34×26, 13 high.	$98\frac{2}{9}$	$41\frac{1}{2} \times 19\frac{1}{3}$, 16 high.	89	$35\frac{1}{2} \times 20$, 13 high.	$78\frac{7}{9}$
Openshaw	In Whitworth Public Hall Building.	$60 \times 40\frac{1}{2}$, 27 high (av'age)	270	49×30, $14\frac{1}{4}$ high.	$163\frac{1}{3}$	$40 \times 29\frac{1}{2}$, $14\frac{1}{4}$ high.	$131\frac{1}{9}$
Rochdale Road	$792\frac{4}{9}$	72×44, 24 high.	352	37×37, 14 high. 40×26, 24 high.	$267\frac{6}{9}$	47×40, 11 high.	$208\frac{5}{9}$
Rusholme	565	34×30, $12\frac{3}{4}$ high.	$113\frac{1}{3}$	34×21, $12\frac{3}{4}$ high.	$79\frac{1}{3}$	27×21, $12\frac{3}{4}$ high.	63

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